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EPISTOLAE ACADEMICAE OXON.

II.

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EPISTOLAE ACADEMICAE OXON.

(REGISTRUM F)

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ACADEMICAL LIFE AND STUDIES AT OXFORD IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY

EDITED BY THE

REV. HENRY ANSTEY, M.A.

OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, FORMERLY VICE-PRINCIPAL OF ST. MARY HALL AND SOMETIME RECTOR OF SLAPTON, BUCKS

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

'Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros'

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PART II

(1457—1509)

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EPISTOLAE ACADEMICAE OXON.

233.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Israel would have perished by the wrath of God had not Moses 'stood before them in the gap.' We are sure that, as a faithful leader, you also will not fail to stand forth in defence of the people committed to your charge, and of the faith of the church in peril; and we have been assured that you have commenced an effort to repress the widening breach in the rule of faith at this time existing, especially among the more ignorant people. Let us not therefore be deemed to impute lukewarmness to your grace, for we solemnly declare we have no such intention; our aim is only to add fuel to the flame of your zeal. We acknowledge that the errors of faith in question had their origin among us, and that we did not at first take active measures to correct them. But now we desire to do so, and we are ready to die, if need be, for the true faith of the Church. In the meantime we beg that the writings of the learned but erring doctor of this University, which are the source of the trouble, may be submitted to us for discussion and refutation.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri et domino, domino Thome, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati. 1457.

Undecimo die mensis Novembris transmissa fuit quedam littera reverendo patri, domino Thome, Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi, sub forma que sequitur: Reverendo in Christo patri et domino devota Universitas Oxonie obedienciam pariter et honorem. Strenuus in bello miles et preclarus archipontifex, quem unxit Deus unccione misericordie sue, si forte suos in fugam versos conspexerit, jamque hostili gladio trucidari, et si se videat vel solum evadere posse, libet tamen mori magis cum[1] illis, sine quibus vivere pudet. Proinde stat in prelio, fortiter propugnat, dimicat et inter cruentos gladios per

[1] *sine cum* corrected in MS.

Fol. 105 a. medias acies hac illacque voce et ense adversarios terret; animat suos, eisque pereuntibus succurrit, mori paratus pro singulis, qui se in eis vivere sentit. Religiosius exemplum ponendum erit, siquidem irato Domino periisset populus Israel propter sua scelera, si non Moyses stetisset, si non obviasset minanti. Denique et objiciens se pro suis ait, '*si dimittis, dimitte, sin autem dele me de libro tuo.*' Plane dux benignus, qui aut gentem suam salvabit secum, aut non potest nisi idem cum eis subire periculum. Ita vos, perbeate pater, ecclesie nostre spes precipua, hoc ipsum, quod estis, vestraque ne peculiaris Dei populus in fidem tutelamque vestram commissus aliquam, presertim in doctrina Christi, jacturam paciatur, haud dubitamus impendere. Nam vestra interest resarcire damna fidei et scandala emergencia in regno Dei. Hec ob eam rem dixerimus, ut discidium, quod in norma fidei nostre, potissime apud indoctum vulgus, nuper exoriri visum est, celerius extinguere curetis; ne improbitas, que in suis amputanda principiis fuit, decursu temporis et lacior et pertinacior fiat. Quo in negocio laborem illustrem vos feliciter inchoasse sepenumero audivimus. Prosequamini opus est, et ne languori dederitis. Hoc enim vos immortalitati perenni consecraturum est. Sed ne aliquis nobis succenseat, aut in nos ferat calumpniam, quasi negligenciam in sanctitate vestra his verbis nostris inconsiderato ausu argueremus et damnaremus; contestamur palam illum nobis animum nunquam fuisse, sed ea mente pocius illa dixisse, ut celestem ignem bone voluntatis vestre, licet ardentem plurimumque ferventem, vel modica face pasceremus. '*Zelus Domini exercituum fecit hoc.*' Jam ad rem accedamus oportet. Per Angliam nostram fama volat, O apostolice vir, crebroque sermone vulgatum est, quendam reverendum patrem, in litteris apprime doctum, atque in Universitate nostra sacre theologie professorem, novam credidisse populis doctrinam; fidem adinvenisse novam. Quo fit ut crudum rudeque vulgus, novarum rerum semper avidum, fidei sue damna ferat, sustineatque discrimina magna. Huic malo vestram medicinam paratam esse non ambigimus, sed, et unum est quod maxime angit animum nostrum, quia improborum hominum plurimi calumpnie infamieque verba in nos minus caute refundunt, asseverantes Universitatem nostram eos, qui jamdudum, ut incerto rumore fertur, pullularunt errores, excipere, amplecti, fovere. Et vero non tam eorum improbitate quam nostra forsan ignavia id evenisse bene credimus, eo quod innocenciam nostram paternitati vestre ante hos dies in hoc discriminoso murmure manifestare postposuerimus. Eapropter vel nunc sero rumpimus moras, taciturnitatem solvimus, et fidem Christi ecclesieque doctrinam nos defensuros ad penas, ad sanguinem, ad mortem usque confitemur. Eciam et eo

silencium nostrum uberiorem meruit veniam, quo nihil certum, exploratum nihil apud nos in premissis opinionibus hucusque habitum est. Hee cause judicio nostro ora eorum clauderent, qui nos inique injusteque falsis suspeccionibus lacerarunt. Profecto cum ejus scripta ad nostram venerint lucem, si vera, si sana, si utilia sint, apud patrocinium curamque suscipiamus decet. Si vero minus digna veritate reperiantur, quod absit, quantum in nobis virtus aut sciencia aut robur est, refellemus ad plenum, et fundamenta, quibus innituntur[1], Deo operante cassabimus. '*Fundamentum enim*[2] *aliud nemo potest ponere, preter id quod positum est, quod est Christus Jesus.*' Precamur insuper, optime pater, viscera caritatis vestre, et iterum atque iterum precamur, quatenus, cum gravitati vestre beneplacitum fuerit, prefata opera ad manus nostras veniant tandem. Quibus inspectis, necnon et in nostra scolastice colluctacionis palestra discussis, plenam veritatis nocionem, cumulacioremque fructum capiamus in Eo, qui uteri virginalis dulcis admodum fructus est; quo vos in eternum perfrui donet ille Jesus Christus. Amen. *Ex nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Novembris die undecimo.* Humilis oratrix Universitas Oxoniensis.

234[3].

To Prince Edward. Fol. 105 b.

The wisest men have ever considered the moral and intellectual training of princes the great safeguard of states; and the most illustrious princes have in a peculiar degree favoured those places where virtue and learning are inculcated together. Very rarely do we find in history a successful ruler or general who was not also a patron of letters. Take Philipp of Macedon as an instance, of whom it is said that he thanked the Gods that his son Alexander came into the world at a time when he could receive the instruction of Aristotle. We too have high hopes for your future, and we beg that you will deign to accept the title of Defender of this University, and will also be in deed our protector.

Sextodecimo die mensis Decembris deliberata fuit quedam littera et sigillata, transmittenda illustrissimo principi Edwardo, regis Anglie et Francie primogenito, sub hac forma que sequitur.

SERENISSIMO ac nobilissimo principi Edwardo, domini nostri, metuen- 1457.

[1] The abbreviation in the MS. is *innititur*.

[2] The word in the MS. is not *enim*, but appears to be *aliud* repeated.

[3] On the upper margin of this folio [105 b] above the following epistle [234] are written the following names, '*Cancellarius dominus Leonellus Wideville, Jacobus Babbe Robertus Lathis*,' after which a later hand adds '*officiarii Anno Dom.* 1483, *et cur hic positi?*'

dissimi Henrici regis Anglie et Francie, primogenito, defensori nostro speratissimo.

Serenissime princeps, Anglorum monarchie digne futura spes, honores celeberrimos et sincere devocionis affectum. Florentissimas illas legimus fuisse urbes, quas vel incliti principes felici fortuna rexere, vel nobiles reipublice tutores, adversante fato, hostili ne insperato insultu jacturam paterentur, humanissime protexere; quos et litteris et morum institutis imbuendos, et in eisdem a primevo sue etatis tempore educandos fore ipsi disertissimi censuere philosophi. Nihil profecto incliti principis magis decet celsitudinem, seu ejus honorem magis amplificat ac feliciorem efficit, quam morum cultus et amor, atque studii litterarum firma tutaque proteccio. Nam maximi ac celeberrimi principes, ut ex historiis accepimus, ea loca uberiori sunt prosecuti favore, in quibus sciencias virtutibus maritatas ali crescereque videbant. Nam si diligenter ex ipsa antiquitatis memoria gesta repetamus, inveniemus nullum unquam eximium principem seu belli ducem, aut raro admodum, extitisse, qui non, ad rempublicam prospere semper dirigendum, litteris ac liberalibus artibus imbutus atque ornatus existeret. Quis clarior temporibus illis, aut cujus gloria rei militaris illustrior, quam Macedonum regis Philippi, qui regnum suum, ante id[1] tempus obscurum et sordidum, non solum illustraverat, sed et finitima quoque regna et universam Greciam ad imperium suum adjunxit? Eundem quoque Philippum legimus diis regraciatum, quod Alexandrum filium concesserant Aristotelis temporibus fuisse sibi natum; cujus doctrinis expolitus et instruccionibus edoctus tocius velut orbis imperio dignus existeret. Ita namque referunt Grecorum et Latinorum historie, quod nobiles inter eos principes non fuere, qui litterarum pericia caruerunt, aut earum saltem studia curis omnibus fovenda minime protexere[2]. Ad vestram igitur, strenuissime princeps, inclitissimam ac nobis speratissimam nobilitatem devote oratricis vestre Universitatis Oxonie studentes omnes et singuli unanimiter confugimus, dignissimam vestram exorantes clemenciam, quatinus, sub inclitissimo et Christianissimo rege nostro Henrico, progenitore vestro nobilissimo, serenissimi defensoris aut protectoris nomen pariter et rem ipsam gratanter acceptare dignetur. Et nos, pro inclitissimo ac felicissimo statu vestro semper felicius dirigendo, continuis precibus Altissimum indesinenter deprecabimur: qui semper in prosperis floreat et vigeat magis ac magis in longevum. *Scriptum in nostre congregacionis domo, pridie Kalendas Januarii.* Humillimi oratores vestri, Cancellarius Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem.

[1] *ad* MS. [2] *pertexere* ib.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1457. SEPTIMODECIMO die Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo sexto, deliberata et sigillata fuit quedam acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis; in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, per predictos Abbatem et conventum Universitati debite, secundum formam communiter usitatam.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1457. TERCIODECIMO die mensis Marcii, deliberata et sigillata fuit quedam acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham, de quadraginta duobus solidis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, sub forma communi que sequitur: Noverint universi per presentes nos, magistrum Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Thomam Wodehylle et Thomam Bemysley, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, **Fol. 106 a.** recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynesham in comitatu Oxoniensi, quadraginta duos solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglicane; in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem quadraginta duobus solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes, sigillo communi Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio decimo die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti tricesimo sexto*, &c.

Testimonial letter for Master William Wryxham.

1457. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo septimo, vicesimo tercio die mensis Marcii, deliberata et sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis magistro Willelmo Wryxham, cujus forma patet in registro registerii[1] Universitatis.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1458. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo octavo, sextodecimo die mensis Novembris, deliberata et sigillata fuit una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de viginti sex solidis, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis, sub forma que sequitur: Noverint universi per presentes, nos, magistros Thomam Chawndelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Martinum Junore, Johannem Moleneux, procuratores Universitatis

[1] From this, and other indications, it seems clear that there were other registers perhaps similar to this, but certainly containing Testimonial letters.

antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sextodecimo die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo septimo.*

Another acquittance of the same.

1458. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo octavo, secundo die mensis Decembris, deliberata et sigillata fuit una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de sexdecem solidis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, cujus forma sequitur: Noverint universi per presentes nos, magistros Thomam Chawndelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Martinum Junore, Johannem Moleneux, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo communi Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, secundo die mensis Decembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo septimo.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1458. MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo octavo, terciodecimo die mensis Marcii, deliberata et sigillata fuit una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, cujus forma sequitur: Noverint universi per presentes, nos, magistros Thomam Chawndelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxonie, Martinum Junore, Johannem Moleneux, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie; in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis et octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem

et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo communi Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio decimo die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo septimo.*

Indenture of Agreement between the University and the City of Oxford.

Fol. 106 b.

1458.

THIS endenture, made þe xx^tiiii day of þe moneth of feverere, the yere of the regne of Kyng Henre the vi^te xxxviii[1], betwene master T. Schawndlere, doctor of dyvynyte and Chawnselere of the Universyte of Oxenforde and the scolars of the same Unyversyte, on the oon partye, and robert at Wodde, meyre of the towne of Oxforde and the burgeses and comeners of the same towne on the oþ^er party, wytnesyth,—Were as diverse disssencyons and contraversyes, debatys have be latte hadd and meved be twene þe seyd Chawnselere and scolars and þ^er predecessors on þe on party, and þe sayd meyre burgeses and cominalte and there predecessors on þ^e oþ^er party; especyaly of and in iii poynts[2] folowyng;—ffwrst, for þe demenyng and delyverance of all maner of scolars of þe sayd Universyte, their servantȝ and all oþ^er persones havyng þ^e privilege of þ^e same Universyte, beyng arestyd and impresonyd yn þ^e sayde towne under þ^e kepyng of þ^e meyre and ballyfys þ^erof or eny of theme, for eny felony or treason, yn þ^e common preson of þ^e same towne, claymyd by a privylege grawnted to þ^e sayd Universyte by Kyng Henre the iiii^the; —The secunde, for þ^e privyleges thay, þ^e sayd Chawnselere, scolars, theire servantȝ and oþ^er havyng þ^e privelege of þ^e sayd Universyte, claym to have yn eny plee or accyon mewydd or takyn bytweyn[3] or ageyne [eny][4] of theyme yn þ^e kyngs cowrtt holde yn þ^e gylde halle of þ^e sayd towne be fore þ^e meyre and ballywys or eny of them;—The iii^de, for þ^e correccyon and pwnyschmentt of eney assautte, affray, or[5] wepyn draw agen þ^e kynges pesse w^tyn þ^e sayd Universyte by eny persone of þ^e sayd towne, or eny oþ^er beyng of þ^e sayd Universyte nott havyng þ^e privylege þeroffe; that, by þ^e comaundment, assentt, and aggrementt of þ^e most crystyn prince, oure sayde soverene lorde, þ^e sayd partyes be a cordydde of and upyn þ^e premyssys, yn þ^e maner and forme þ^t folowth—Fwrst, as to þ^e poynte and artekylle by fore fyrst rehersyd, it ys a cordyd and a agreyd, þ^t þ^e sayd meyre, baylyfs, burgeses and cominalte of þ^e sayd towne schall sofere fro hens forward, as far[6] as they kane or may, þ^e Chawnsler, þ^e scolars, and

[1] This should be xxxvii, as appears from the original, still existing. [2] *ponyts* MS. [3] *by tweym* ib. [4] *eny* omitted in MS. [5] *affray or to kepe or wepyn*, &c., MS., where *to kepe* is, however, marked as redundant. [6] *for* MS.

all oþ^er under the privelege of þ^e same Universyte, pesably to enyoye to use þ^e privyleges of wyche abowe is made mensyone; so þ^t sayd meyre, ballywys and burgeses, or syche delyverance by them be do made, have a sufficientt and a lawful discharge for þ^e same prisoner, yf þ^e same prisoner be claymyd by þ^e seyd Chawnslere or hys styward for þ^e tyme beyng w^tyn iiii wyks next after hys takyng and ymprisonyng yn þ^e comon preson of þ^e towne, so þ^t þ^e seyd Chawnslere, his styward, and eþ^er of þ^em do here trw partte and effectuell dylygence w^towt fraude, þ^t þ^e sayd prisoner be delyveryd, acquit or atteynt of swch treason and felony for þ^e wych he was a restyd and so imprisonyd, w^tyn xii wyks next after þ^e deliverance of þ^e sayd persone to þ^e sayd Chawnsellere or hys styward so mad;—Provydede alwey, þ^t þ^e godys and catellx of any swch prisoner so a restyd be a restydd and put in swre and save garde by the Chawnslere and meyre for þ^e tyme beyng, unto þ^e tyme þ^t þ^e sayd prisoner so a restyd be acquit or atteynt of þ^e sayd felony or treason, or of any oþ^er before þ^e same styward at þ^t tyme attaynyd; to þ^e entent þ^t, at swche tyme þ^t eny swch prisoner be atteyntt, þ^t þ^en þ^e seyd godys and catelx be delyveryd to þ^e same sayd meyre or baylyfs for þ^e tyme beyng, as þyng perteynyng to the fee-ferme[1] of þ^e sayd towne. And al so, as to þ^e secunde poynte and article of travers bytwene þ^e seyde partyys, it is a cordyde by þ^e sayd partyys [þ^t] fro hensforwarde þ^t þ^ese, and no noþ^er, enjouye þ^e privyleges of þ^e Universyte; þ^t is to say, the Chawnslere, al doctors, mastres, and oþ^er graduatis, al studientꝫ, al scolars, and al clerkis dwellyng wythin the precinct of þ^e Universyte, of wath condicyon, ordere or degre so evere they be, every daylly continuell servant to eny of heme byfore rehersyde belongyng, þ^e styward of þ^e Universyte and feed[2] mene of þ^e same Universyte, wyth þ^ere menyall men, also al bedyllys, w^t there dailly servantꝫ and theire howsholdes, al stacioners, al bokbynders, lymnors, wryters, pergemeners, barbours, þ^e belryngere of þ^e Universyte, w^t al there howsholdes, al catowrs, manciplis, spencers, cokes, lawenders, powre schildryne of scolars or clerkys wythin þ^e precincte of þ^e sayd Uni-
Fol. 107 a. versyte, also al oþ^er servantꝫ takyng clothyng or hyre by þ^e yere halfe here or quarter of þ^e yere, takyng at lest for þ^e here vi. *s.* viii. *d.*, for þ^e halfe here iii*s.* iiii*d.*, and þ^e quarter xx^ti*d.*, of eny doctowre, master, graduatt, scolare, clere w^towt frawde or malengyne; also, al comyn caryars, bryngers of scolers to þ^e Universyte, or þ^er money, letter, or eny especyall message to eny scolare or clerke, or[3] fechere of eny scolere or clerke fro þ^e Universyte, for þ^e tyme of swch fechyng or

[1] *fre ferme* MS. [2] Should be *fred* (i. e. freed-) men; it is so in copy in the chancellor's book designated as A. [3] *of* MS.

bryngyng or abydyng yn þe Universyte for þt entente: Provyded alwey, þt yfe eny clerke or scolare, havyng a wyfe and howsholde wythin þe precinct of þe Universyte, or eny scolers servant, selle eny opyn merchentyse by wey of merchandysyng, þt, as towchyng swch merchawnedysyng, they be tallyable wt þe bwrgeses of þe sayd towne. Also, it is a corded, þt yf eny scolars servant by lyvere or hyre undere fourme abovesayde, nott dwellyng yn howshold wt þe same scoler, be a restede by þe meyre or baylyffs, or eny offecers of hers, If eny inhibicion be send fro þe Chawnselere or his comesary to þe meyre or ballyfs for þe sayd persone so arestede, that þe offecer of þe Universyte þt execwtyth þe sayde inhibicion, wt an offecer of þe sayd meyre or bailliffs, bryng wtowt delay þe same person so a restyd to þe seyd Chawnselere or his comesary, and þere by straytt examination, aftre þe discrecion of þe seyd Chawnselere or his comesary, by a noth to be prewyd wheþer he ought to enjoye þe priwilege of the Universyte or nott; and, yf hit be prewyd þt he be nott of þe sayd priwilege, þt þen he be remyttyd by þe sayd offecers to þe meyre or baillyfs so for hym inhibite:—And, as to þe iiide poynte and article of contraversie bytwene sayde partyys, It is a greed and a cordyd, þt yf þe pese be brokyne by twene eny to persones, of wyche ii on ys of þe priwilege of þe Universyte, þt þe correction and pwnyschment þerof only perteyne to þe Chawnslere, a cordyng to þe statute of þe Universyte; and, yf þe pese happe to be brok by twene to laymen of þe towne of Oxenforde or þe suburbes of þe same, or ellys by twene eny forens, or eny foreyne and a layman of þe towne, that þen, yf þe meyre, aldermen Baylyffe, or eny of here offecers, fyrst a reste swch brekers of þe pese, þt þe correccion and pwnyschment of þe sayd trespasse perteyne holly to þe seyd meyre and baylyfe: and, if swch brekers of þe pese be first arest by þe Chawnslere, procutors, or eny of here offecers, þt þen correction and pwnyschmentt perteyne only to the Chawnslere; acordyng to þe statute of þe Universyte. Prowided alwey, þt yf noþer party be of priwylege of þe sayd Universyte, ne no swch person as is byfore rehersid þt shuld have þe priwylege of þe seyde Universyte, þt then þe sute for the party grewyd or wronged be sued and determined before þe meyre or baylyffe of þe same sayd towne. In wytnes of al wych þyngs, as wel þe sealle of offeyse of þe seyde Chawnslere, as þe seal of þe Universyte aforsayde, to þt o parte of thys presentt yndenture, remaynyng toward þe seyd meyre and cominalte, ben sett; And to þt oþer parte of þe same yndenture as well the sealle of offyce of mayralte, as þe seall of þe comonalte off þe seyd towne of Oxenford, remaynyng toward þe seyd Chawnselere and Universyte, ben put. Yeven þe day and yere abovesayde.

Fol. 107 b.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1458. QUINTO die mensis Marcii sigillata erat quedam acquietancia, cujus tenor est talis; Noverint universi per presentes, nos, magistros Thomam Chawndelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Martinum Junor, Johannem Moleneux, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo communi Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo septimo.*

235.

To the Pope [Pius II].

Your letter was received by us with humble devotion; and we lift our hands toward heaven in thanksgiving for your election, by which the boat of S. Peter receives a pilot at once learned and active, charitable, and zealous for the universal Church. God has appointed a faithful and wise servant to be ruler over his household, and we regard your name as a presage of your future exertions, whereby the Christian hosts shall be enabled to resist the fire and sword and fury of the Saracens, and the internal divisions of the Church shall be healed. Indeed, everything you do betokens your piety, and we heartily pray that God will give you his grace and so direct your steps that his Name may be glorified, the faithful multiplied, the Church pacified; and for our parts we will ever do our utmost to obey your commands and maintain the authority of the holy see.

1459. BEATISSIME in Christo pater, devota pedum oscula beatorum: Et quanquam[1] apostolicas quidem litteras vestre reverendissime sanctitatis, O sanctissime pater, octavo kalendas Aprilis nostra humillima devocione recepimus cum affectu, nos omni tempore benedicere Deum sacris doceamur historiis, eo tamen profusius ora laxemus in Ejus gloriam decet, quo jamjam graciori respectu in vestra perfelici eleccione ecclesiam suam intueri dignatus est. Letamur sane in Deo, ac utrasque palmas ad sidera tendentes Ei gracias damus eternas, quod

[1] The words et quanquam are misplaced in the MS.; they should follow the word affectu two lines below.

eum virum divina dignacio ad regendam illam Petri naviculam, inque summum tocius ecclesie pontificem assumpserit, qui omnium bonarum litterarum sit eruditus; qui sit in agendis industrius, qui denique ea fidei et caritatis flamma succensus est, qua ad discrimina, imo ad mortes, animam paratam habeat; qua ita vivat ut bonum eis in commune proficiat, et universis Christianis utiliora provideat. De vestra itaque beatitudine, sanctissime pater, plurimum Christiani confidunt; felicemque futuram putant ecclesiam tali tantoque pontifice. Ad vestrum nempe apostolatum sese erigunt; lacrimis luctuque detersis plene arbitrantur vestra fidelitate vestraque prudencia liberam fore matrem Jerusalem. Vere fidelis servus et prudens quem constituit Dominus super familiam suam. Quo fit ut divino quodam presagio videamini traxisse a pietate vocabulum: Ut enim ea tantum referamus, que ubique fama divulgat, pietas vestra exprimitur in mediorum congruencium excogitacione, quibus Christianorum armata militia ferro, incendiis, furorique turbido Saracenorum gentis occurrere posset, ne rempublicam ecclesie vel ad plenum inficiant. Pietas vestra claret eximia, quod noctes diesque elaboret ut dirimantur scismata, conatusque hereticorum nefarii reprimantur, imo prorsus extirpentur. Totum, pater beatissime, fama quidem id referente, est pietas, quidquid vos dicitis, quidquid cogitatis, quidquid agitis; utpote vir totus ex pietate plasmatus. Que cum ita sint, ne dubitare quidem poterimus, sanctissime pater, vestram sanctissimam pietatem ac piissimam sanctitatem sollicite ac diligenter cursum ire ardereque ita[1] quo fugiant[2] infideles, et nos Christiani jocunde letemur in Christo Jesu, Domino nostro. Quamobrem nos vero solemnes preces privatasque Deo nostro effundemus, ut gracia sua vobis assistat, ac Idem dirigat[3] gressus vestros sanctissimos ad ecclesie sue sancte gloriam et honorem, augmentum fidei, extirpacionem heresium, pacem et quietem populi Christiani. Et[4] denique eandem ecclesiam sanctam suam satis feliciter regere valeatis: ipsam quoque fidem catholicam, prout vestra sanctitas mandat, et apostolice sedis auctoritatem honorem ac libertatem ecclesiasticam fovere promittimus; ceterosque fideles pro viribus ad similia incitari procurabimus. Et Deus omnipotens, nostris precibus exoratus, apostolatum vestrum, beatissime pater, per multa dierum annorumque curricula servet incolumem; ut attrita jam diu respiret et exultet Christiana religio, scandalaque de regno Dei tollantur, atque palleant, tremant, penitusque conticescant, jam vere[5] pio pontifice rem moderante Catholicam, hostes ecclesie. Amen. *Scriptum in Universitate Oxoniensi, septimo Kalendas Aprilis, &c.*

[1] A word appears to be omitted in a blank space here. [2] *fugeant* MS.
[3] *dirigat ac item* ib. [4] *atqui et* ib. [5] *vero* ib.

236.

l. 108 a. **To the King**[1].

May your days be long and happy, and your honour great! Your royal progenitors, from Alfred downwards, were of one heart and mind, all labouring in their turn for the glory of God and of the Blessed Virgin, and for the advancement of the Church. They, of their piety, founded this University and rejoiced in the granting of our privileges. Especially did Edward III, of blessed memory, help us by curtailing the privileges of the town and adding to those of the University, and thus checking the murders, fires, robberies, and other innumerable evil deeds recorded in the annals of those times. But thus to speak of the past seems like ingratitude for the present, while we have in you a king, superior to all who have preceded you, by your fervent zeal for virtue and learning, the glory of God and increase of the faith; manifested from your earliest years both by your personal character and charitable work; and especially in respect of the two colleges, ...

1459. Quid unum e multis, Cristianissime princeps, celsitudini vestre fari primo incipiemus, nisi celeberrimos honores fortunamque fore arridentissimam et felices dies usque in eternum? De illustrissimo olim rege Aluredo reliquisque progenitoribus vestris serenissimis, licet e vita hac miserabili ad sanctorum edes excesserint sempiternas, loqui compellimur tacereque non possumus. Adeo nempe et tam ardens eorum caritas extiterat, et tam integra diligencia ad reipublice ecclesiastice statum conservandum: qui scilicet, tanquam Sancti Spiritus gracia successive illuminati, quod unus fecerat alter refecit, quod primus voluit voluit quoque[2] secundus; deincepsque sic ordinati unanimes omnes ad laudem Dei glorioseque Virginis Marie ac omnium sanctorum, et fidei catholice incrementum, O devotissime princeps, vestram Universitatem Oxoniensem pie condiderunt cum affectu. Equidem neque[3] precelsius opus neque retribucionis et meriti apud Altissimum grandius, quicquamve gloriosius quam predictum poterat apud eos excogitari; merito proinde in statutis in privilegiis concedendis, quis eorum alterum precelleret, divinitus inter se gavisi sunt. Gavisus est et ille olim recolende memorie preclarissimus Edwardus tercius, progenitor vester, diminuere privilegia laicorum, et graciosam indulsisse libertatum ampliacionem Universitati vestre, ob infestacionem eorumdem in clerum vestrum. Quid tamen homicidiis, quid incendiis, quid depredacionibus, quid aliis quasi inenumerabilibus maleficiis, quid feroci arrogancia et presumpcione, que tunc habuerunt

[1] No address in MS. [2] *que* MS. [3] *et que* ib.

contra clerum vestrum, veluti a nostris cronographis dolenter satis est id enarratum. Gavisi sunt itidemque post hec verisimiliter, metuendissime rex, alii predecessores vestri preclarissimi, unusquisque gradatim, sicut graciosius meliusque apud eos visum est, ad eternam eorum remuneracionem, que est vivere preter finem, veluti speramus indubitanter. Sed, O ingrata memoria nostra! cur Cristianissimum regem nostrum superstitem, hominem diviniorem longeque imparem omnibus iis pretermittimus? Nonne zelum ejus ferventissimum, tum in augmentanda virtute, tum in scolastico studio ampliando, ad honorem Dei et incrementum fidei recordamur? Recordari profecto et rei exitus et res ipsa nos compellunt. Ab ea quidem repenti adolescencia ad hos dies felices vestros, sane meminimus extitisse vos in virtute prestanciorem, in moribus eleganciorem, in fide, spe et caritate stabiliorem, contra inimicos Dei persecutorem; denique et cum ecclesia Christi manum promptissimam, ad nostram pene inenarrabilem consolacionem tociusque cleri regni vestri. Accedat testis noster, illud deificum opus vestrum duorum collegiorum; accedat probacio nostra, ipsa inextincta caritas vestra, expansa per totum regnum vestrum, propter amorem Dei. Ac nos ipsi, humanissime miles, id ipsum explorantes ad satis, devotissime sic predicabimus in eternum. En enim placuit non longe a nunc celsitudini vestre[1] . . .

237.

To the King[2].

Fol. 108 b.

No words of ours, nor even the eloquence of Cicero, could sufficiently set forth the praises your divine labours deserve; divine we justly call them, for we know that all your actions and thoughts are for the glory of God and the interests of the Church. Well may your people celebrate your praise! and Oxford, above all, which has beyond other places reason for gratitude, should be the first to pray for your honour and immortality. On the receipt of your letter, complaining of the conduct of our two bedels, W. Kelbeck and R. Wryte, we were filled with fear and grief. We have removed both from their office, cast them into prison, and proceeded to elect others in their room.

Uti decet non mediocriter tantam celsitudinem, Cristianissime regum 1459.
et miles Cristi potentissime, celeberrimos *&c.* (*ut supra in littera precedenti*) inexpugnabiles dies felicesque in eternum devote volumus cum

[1] The MS. breaks off here abruptly, and below on the margin is written, '*Copia fuit perdita in domo congregacionis, et ideo non scripsi plus.*' [2] No address in MS.

affectu. Plus laudis et honorificencie vestre serenitati velle nos, quam aut olim facundus ille Cicero eloqui valuit, aut in nostro habemus inerudito genere dicendi, ad explicandum requirunt satis divina opera vestra. Divina, inquimus, et felicia, quum supra humanum modum quidquid egeritis ipsum factum est; quidquid memineritis, quod ad majorem honoris augmentacionem fidei et ecclesie Dei cedere queat, ipsum ferventi zelo protinus agi non desinitis. Prorsus equidem intelligimus totaliter clarescere animum vestrum in contemplacione Dei, ad tutelam ecclesie sue et cleri sui. Ob hec enim non immerito eternas laudes regi suo psallere queat omnis populus regni vestri. Et ne ingrate obmutescas, Tu prima, Oxonia, veluti ceteris longe imparem dicendi causam habes, perennes dignitates et celsitudines regi tuo instaurari. Dic et appete eum, salva celestium pace, gloriosum et immortalem vivere in terris. Dic, '*Domine in virtute tua letabitur rex, et super salutare tuum exultabit vehementer.*' '*Dabis eum in benedicionem in seculum seculi, letificabis eum in gaudio cum vultu tuo, quoniam sperat in Te, et in misericordia tua non commovebitur.*' Sextodecimo kalendas Februarii, metuendissime princeps, perlectis vestre celsitudinis litteris, cum omnique reverencia intellectis; devocio, quam penes vestram semper gerimus serenitatem, timore nostros percussit animos, et in luctuosa deduxit suspiria; precipue quod in Universitate vestra ipsi duo bedelli, Willelmus Kelbek et Robertus Wryte, contra celsam majestatem vestram notati forent delinquentes quomodolibet. In singulis tamen mandatis vestris regiis obedientes, ea perimplevimus posse nostro: cum ipsorum utrumque ab officio bedillatus amovendo [1], tum eosdem in tuta reponendo custodia, processimus quam cicius poterimus ad successorum suorum eleccionem, juxta statutorum nostrorum continenciam pro temporibus et locis oportunis. Inter cetera humillime obsecrantes, quatinus ob salutem ordinis nostri, (qui semper esse cupimus vestre majestatis fidelissimi in Christo servi,) ne, si, quod absit, ipsorum demerita, ex hac nobis injuncta eorum captura, supplicium sanguinis exposcerent, notam irregularitatis non effugeremus; eosdem ab hoc ergastulo liberos abire graciosissime decernatis. Quo facto Deo et vobis obsequiosissimi erimus per eternum. *Scriptum Oxonie quartodecimo Kalendas Februarii, in nostra congregacionis domo, &c.*

Letter testimonial for Master William Wagge.

1459. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis

[1] *ammovendo* MS.

magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia, justicie procul dubio consentaneum et nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare. Enimvero, dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitacius ardenciusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante oculos nostre consideracionis statuentes, per has litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Willelmus Wagge, nostre Universitatis predicte arcium magister, vir quidem conversacionis venustate conspicuus, ingenio agilis, atque in dicta facultate mature eruditus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, cunctis bene beateque vivendi spectaculum exhibendo, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit. Exinde vero regenciam, et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Postremo, ad sacratiora studia translatus, in ecclesie edificacionem operas adhibuit diligenciores. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium, quorum penes se interest, uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, nonodecimo die mensis Februarii.*

Testimonial letter for Master John Bayly. Fol. 109 a.

VICESIMO die Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo nono, deliberata et sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis, pro magistro Johanne Bayly, arcium magistro, et sacre theologie bacallario, cujus forma patet in littera precedenti, cum ista clausula superaddita '*quem, ut prefertur, bene meritum in sacra theologia, gradu bacallariatus Universitas decoravit.*' 1459.

Testimonial letter for Master Hugh ffraunce.

QUARTO die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo quinquagesimo nono, deliberata et sigillata fuit una littera testimonialis pro magistro Hugone ffraunce, sub forma communi. 1459.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

QUARTO decimo die mensis Marcii, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de viginti sex solidis, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis, cujus tenor patet supra. 1459.

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

1459. ITEM, eodem die, alia acquietancia sigillata erat, eisdem Abbati et conventui, de sedecim solidis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, cujus tenor patet supra.

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

1459. NONODECIMO die Marcii, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham, de viginti sex solidis, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis, cujus tenor patet supra.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1459. ITEM, eodem die, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseneya, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue [pensionis][1] cujus tenor patet supra.

Commendatory letter for Master Wm. Gyfford.

1460. ULTIMO die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo, deliberata fuit et sigillata littera commendatoria pro magistro Willelmo Gyfford, sub forma communi; et cum hac speciali clausula superaddita, '*celerum in ipso septennio, in quo nobiscum in dicta facultate rexerat, ultra consuetos magistrorum labores, cunctis audire volentibus, publice in philosophicis leccionibus indies subtilissimas erudiciones adhibuit.*

238.

Fol. 109 b.

To the King.

We know not how to find terms to express our thankfulness for the encouragement you have given to the contemplation of divine mysteries, so long neglected but of late revived among us. This we attribute to the favour of heaven, so manifestly shown by your preservation in many perils, that we cannot but ascribe it to a special providence. Surely there is no people, except Jews, but must confess that we have a most truly Christian King: for him we ever pray 'Domine, salvum fac regem.' *In reply to your last letter to us, permit us to say that the statements of the mendicant orders, as to their poverty and our love of money, are not true. We have never demanded ten pounds or even one, for granting them degrees. On the contrary, whatever they have paid, beyond the statutable fees, they have paid of their own free will, and of their own*

[1] Omitted in MS.

suggestion, in order to be excused, for a money payment, the inconvenience to them of long residence. Any farther fees to officials, if paid, have been paid from ostentation. Lastly, it is not true that degrees can be had on easier terms at Cambridge.

QUAM feliciter aut qua celesti virtute nostram agilem vitam ad medium sic retorquemus[1] quo vestre celsitudini, illustrissime princeps, quicquam eloqui ausi erimus! precipueque cum divinarum rerum sancta contemplacio, ubique pene sopita jacens, in vobis totaliter reviviscat. Si nempe vel antiquas cronographorum tradiciones, vel nostri temporis felici quodam ocio, more bonorum philosophorum, res gestas in lucem veritatis explicemus, nostrum regem metuendissimum maximos a superis habuisse favores esse compertum non ambigitur. Tocies itaque desuper ei auxiliatum est, quocies nomen divinum invocaverit. Ceterum etsi nostra aliquocies culpa in humanis ceciderit periculis, gloriosissime Deus, hucusque eum non deseruisti! Tot tantaque fata, et gracia Tui et sua virtute quidem, putatur evasisse, quod eum Tecum habeas in indissolubili amoris federe pro inperpetuo. Et quidem, si res hec apud ingeniosissimos viros debeat raciocinari introrsum, quin ita senciant non hesitamus. Ac preter has hominum raciones, que sepissime fallibiles sunt, ea spei firmitate ipsi nos stabilimur, qua id idem recte credamus indubitanter. Quid aliud in re hac, invictissime Cristi miles, cetere naciones intelligant? Profecto, nisi Judaicarum[2] condicionum sint, Cristianissimum principem nobiscum dicent regem nostrum; cujus siquidem non minor virtus, non minor devocio quam ea, que sola sufficiat, Deum ex justicia vindicem misericordem fore, quam ea que sola sufficiat, positam in adversis unam salvam facere patriam totam. Qua in re hoc sacrum sequens carmen subinstituemus indesinenter, '*Domine salvum fac regem, Henricum nostrum,*' *&c.* Modo, serenissime hominum, vobis, precamur, libeat quod[3] vestris nuperrimis litteris responsa demus, uti nos decet, quam humillime. Cum enim sacri illi quatuor ordines virorum mendicancium nostram, ut aiunt, aviditatem suamque paupertatem vestre majestati notas fecerint; alias quippe, si tante celsitudini sic loqui liceat, adducunt suggestiones quam res se habet ex parte. Nunquam sane vel decem, vel unum ab eis expetimus aureum, pro gradibus suis. Imo, quidquid solverint, preter debita ex statutis, hoc sua sponte se solvere offerunt, non coacti. Nam olim, et ab antiquissimis temporibus, majoribus eorum quam libenter visum est sic solvisse, vel equivalenter; propter dicendas causas a nobis subse- 1460.

[1] *retorquimus* MS. [2] *Judeicarum* ib. [3] This seems to be *quo* or *quae* in the MS.

quentes. Viderunt itaque procedendi modos secularium non eis placabiles, tum propter temporis longevitatem, tum propter quam maximos labores scolasticos, obque inde sequentes necessario sumptus, eis quasi importabiles; ideoque gratis offerunt, quo suo beneplacito hujusmodi gradus nanciscantur, vestre Universitati decem libras: que quidem summa, si ut determinaturi [1] primo, dehinc ut arcium bacallarii, demum et tercio ut septem liberalium scienciarum magistri, onera cum honoribus secundum exigenciam statutorum et nostras laudabiles consuetudines supportarent, minima aut nulla nostro judicio estimarentur. Ac quantum vero ad eas quinque libras, quas sese exponere dicunt quidem [2] officiariis, precipueque tantum pro quadam magistris regentibus distributoria, ut inquiunt, liberata; nostra fide, si quidam id fecerint, magis ut liberales et magnifici videantur, hoc faciunt, quam aliquo privilegio vel statuto compulsi. Et tercio, cum minoribus sumptibus in Universitate vestra Cantabrigie se dicant ad tam insignem doctoratus gradum evasuros; certe et quinque eidem Universitati quam sepe et sex solvunt marcas, ac ejus regentes splendide convivant: que ambo simul vel decem equivalent libras, si recte computentur, vel excellunt. Quas [3] ob res non vestram pretereat celsitudinem, regum illustrissime, qui privilegiis, libertatibus, statutis, nostrisque juramentis semper salvis tot vestra regia contemplacione nobiscum . . . [4] favores quot melius excogitare poterimus pro eisdem. Et in eternum vivat rex noster. Amen. *Ab Oxonia.*

Fol. 110 a.

239 [5].

The elegance of your latinity, the uprightness of your character, your singular eloquence, and, above all, your recent munificence to us make it difficult for us to write in reply. You seem to have enjoyed the society and conversation of the immortals; and the fame of your acquirements, and, with it, of our own, have become known to the Italians, the masters of eloquence. Nothing is more desired by us than that those who are distinguished for military successes should also be lovers of learning. And no reward hereafter can be too great for one who, like the late Duke

[1] The MS. has dra^{ti}, probably abbrev. for determinaturi. [2] *quid* MS. [3] The remainder seems hopelessly imperfect, but there is no lacuna or erasure in the MS. beyond those indicated above. [4] A word illegible here. [5] There is no address to this letter, whether intentionally or not; and it must be supposed to be one of the most carelessly transcribed in this collection, though the handwriting is large and distinct. The object of the flattery appears to be to obtain the patronage of J. Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, to whom—as is suggested on the margin by a former Keeper of the Archives [W. Smith]—it was probably addressed.

of Gloucester, favours our work and defends our interests, nor can we think of any one more able than yourself to succeed to his place in our hearts.

CUM dudum, illustrissime comes, tuarum elegantissimarum epistolarum sedule explicacioni operose satis dediti essemus, tuo felici ocio et salvo nomini amplissimas itidem attulimus fortunas: a Deo scilicet[1]. Nempe et ea, que Plutarchi excelsior est probitas, et ea singularis eloquencia, denique et illa, que divinior virtus est, tua in nos nuperrima largitas, in ea admiracione habita sunt[2] quod hee nostre littere, unde nacte essent exordium, integram adjicere operam non potuimus. Clara mente arbitramur te siquidem[3] cum superis, vel prope eos, olimpicas exhibuisse disceptaciones, quas eo animo amplecteris, quod magnas secum mereris familiaritates, aut eorum alter perpetuus collega effectus sis[4]. Non sane unquam a tuis crepundiis alium te meminimus nisi illustrem satis, et quasi divino more in iis, in aliis quidem[5] humanis vitam transegisse singularem; verum et si nostrapte propius tuam Pataviam accesserimus, rem hanc ita digessimus, quod non solum apud Italos, quos omnis eloquencie principes ais, virtutis tue fama percrebuit, imo nostra per te et tua insimul gloria processerunt. Que res profecto taliter et tantum nos impulit, quod si qua ex studiis memoratu digna in lucem prodirent, ea tue glorie et dignitati putaremus referenda. Quod, tametsi precipue id nostre sorti modo obtigerit, aliunde regiis negociis prepediti, alias jocundissime agemus sine susurro, presertimque cum nil letius nil desideracius nobiscum esse debeat, quam eos viros, qui militarium rerum actores sunt, sapiencie studiis quandoquidem deditos[6] intelligere. Quantas, inquimus, apud superos meruit laudes Socraticus ille Umfredus noster, dux olim Claudicestrie serenissimus, quippe olim adeo accurate res nostras gessit, quasi in perpetuis amplexibus nos haberet. Cujus vero si hactenus famam et meritum satis dicere edocti non sumus, quinam, probissime comes, Umfridi successor, eque ac benemerite tuo nomini et dignitati referemus? Ceterum et quia usque hanc nostram delinitam etatem, que brevis superest, gloria in omni dicendi genere maxime apud Italos, uti inquis, sola viguit, a nobis seclusa, nostrum cape cor totum pro ea, quam et ipsi et nos divinam vocamus, eloquencia. Itaque et cum hec, nostris ipothecis, celestium favore et tua providencia salva perducta sit, ea assiduitate instituemus ocium nostrum, qua facundiores esse speramus ad elegantissime perorandum usque ad superos nomen tuum. Et vive feliciter. *Ab Oxonia Kalendis Aprilis.* 1460.

[1] *Adeo scilicet* MS. [2] *habiti sunt* ib. [3] *siquidam* ib. [4] *suis* ib. [5] *quidam* ib. [6] *debitos* ib.

Fol. 110 b. **Testimonial letter for Master John Godynho[1].**

1467. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia, nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate ac sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero, dum studiosis doctisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis et sciencie viam concitacius ardenciusque hortantur. Hec ac hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, Johannes Godynho, sacre theologie bacallarius formatus, vir quidem conversacionis honeste atque philosophicis theologicisque mature eruditus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate nobiscum vitam transegit, quod merito apud nos dicta in theologia ad bacallariatus gradum honorifice provectus est. Exinde vero quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi predicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto Kalendas Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo septimo.*

Testimonial letter for Master Walter Kyndone.

1468. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quanquam, inter cetera humanitatis officia, Cristiane professionis unumquemque veritati, cum opus est, equum esse testimonium perhibere latet neminem; nobis tamen, qui sciencie ac virtutis studia

[1] It will be seen that between this article and the next preceding there occurs a gap of seven years (1460–67). The MS., in this part of the volume, is disjointed. To follow the chronological order, we must go on, after p. 355, to p. 363, when the date 1460 is continued, and the correct order maintained down to 1466, p. 382. Again, at this point (p. 382) we go back to p. 356, where the order is resumed for two years, 1467–1468. Then one entry, under the year 1468, is interpolated at p. 378, and another, under the year 1469, at p. 385. From p. 385 go back to p. 382, at which place the year 1470 commences, and the correct order is maintained to p. 393. Thence, again returning to p. 358, we find the year 1471, and that year continues to p. 363, where it breaks off, and is resumed at p. 393. The order, then, of the pages chronologically should be 355, 363 to 382, 356–7, 378, 385, 382 to 393, 358 to 363, 399 to 400.

profitemur, modo quodam singulari magis debitum est, viros morum gravitate ac sciencia preditos condigno veritatis juvare testimonio.—Stoicis enim placere accepimus, que in terris gignuntur ad usum hominum creari omnia, homines autem causa hominum esse generatos, ut ipsi inter se alius alii prodesse possit.—Hec ac hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Walterus Kyndone, in artibus magister, vir quidem conversacionis honeste atque in philosophicis theologicisque apprime doctus, apud nos in Universitate predicta, a S. Michaelis Archangeli festo anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo sexto hucusque presencialiter stetit, sacreque theologie diligencius operam dedit. Ut autem hec testificacio omnibus palam esse possit, nostras presentes litteras dicte Universitatis communi sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostra congregacionis domo, septimo Kalendas Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo octavo.*

Testimonial letter for Master William Preston.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia, nobis, qui sciencie ac virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate ac sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero, dum studiosis doctisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitacius ardenciusque hortantur. Hec ac hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Willelmus Prestone, Universitatis predicte arcium magister, vir quidem conversacione honesta, atque dicta in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit. Deinde vero regenciam, ac quecumque ad tanti gradus solemnitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Per annos preterea quamplurimos, sacre theologie studiis incumbens, non mediocriter proficiendo sciencie scienciam accumulavit. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostra congregacionis domo, quarto Kalendas Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo octavo*[1]. 1468.

[1] See p. 378.

Fol. III a.

An agent appointed by the University.

Master W. Whitley has been constituted special messenger and agent of the University, and empowered to collect and receive, from those at present detaining the same, all books and other property whatsoever and wheresoever to us belonging; and to prosecute before any judge spiritual or temporal all persons unlawfully having possession thereof. He shall also have authority to give acknowledgement for receipt of such property by him, and generally to act for us; and we hereby pledge all we have, as a guarantee that we will ratify everything he may do.

1471. PATEAT universis per presentes nos, Cancellarium et procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis ejusdemque Universitatis magistrorum regencium unanimem cetum, fecisse, ordinasse et in loco nostro constituisse predilectum nobis in Christo, magistrum Willelmum Whitley, presencium exhibitorem, nostrum verum et legitimum procuratorem, actorem, factorem, negociorum nostrorum gestorem et nuncium specialem; dedisseque et concessisse eidem procuratori nostro plenariam potestatem, vice et nomine nostris ac pro nobis, quecumque libros, res et bona, in quorumcunque manibus reperiri poterint, a quibuscunque possessoribus sive detentoribus eorumdem, debitis cum instanciis petendi, colligendi, levandi et recipiendi; et, si opus fuerit, quoscunque illegitimos possessores ac detentores iniquos eorumdem librorum rerum et bonorum, de quorum nominibus ac personis sibi constare poterit, coram quibusçunque judicibus spiritualibus vel temporalibus, uno vel pluribus, in debita juris forma prosequendi; ac ea, una cum damnis et expensis, recuperandi, seu sic per alium prosequi ac recuperari faciendi: necnon de receptis et recuperatis hujusmodi acquietandi, nobisque de eisdem respondendi et fideliter computandi; ceteraque omnia et singula faciendi, exercendi et expediendi, que in premissis seu circa ea necessaria fuerint, vel quomodolibet opportuna; et que nos facere possemus, si ibidem personaliter interessemus; etsi talia sint, que de sui natura mandatum exigant magis speciale; promittentes nos ratum, gratum et firmum pro perpetuo habituros totum et quidquid per prefatum procuratorem nostrum, aut ejus substitutum quemcumque, ad premissa vel eorum aliquod actum, factum, dictum, gestum seu procuratum fuerit in premissis, aut eorum aliquo; judicioque sisti ac judicatum solvi cum omnibus suis clausulis necessariis, ac de jure requisitis; sub ypotheca et obligacione omnium rerum nostrarum: et exponimus in ea parte caucionem per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo Oxonie, duodecimo die Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo primo.*

240.

Fol. 111 b.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury and the members of the Synod.

We are happy to think that the labours of the synod may bring about the removal of those evils from which we have so long suffered; and restore the good old days when God was duly honoured, heresy stamped out and the kingdom prosperous. Since most of your number have been members of this University we can reasonably hope for a favourable hearing; but we postpone our private interests to those of the state, now disturbed by such changes and mischances, that, if not prevented by express intervention of God and your watchful care, the end must be near. The nation will wait for your wisdom, a wisdom not of this world, but of God, a wisdom whereby a Christian King may rule a Christian nation. As to our own private affairs, we have laboured to the utmost both by teaching, and ensuing peace; but so furious is the opposition of the world to us and the Christian faith, that our schools are half empty and our numbers steadily decrease. And no wonder: for there is no prospect of reward, while unlearned and ignorant men receive the promotion which is our due. The effects must be disastrous to the nation; insubordination and wickedness spread quickly, and there are indications of such divisions as will rend asunder the realm. We ask that you will recommend throughout your province special prayer for the intercession of our patron, Saint Frideswide, that the whole kingdom may obtain the divine favour.

Drvo[1] Thome Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo tocius Anglie primati ac apostolice sedis legato; necnon toti beate sinodo nostrisque patribus graciosissimis. 1471.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Thome, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati, necnon apostolice sedis legato, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis ceterique studentes in eadem debitam obedienciam; necnon toti patrum sacrato cetui reverencias, prout decet, cum honore. Non nobiscum sopire potest, beatissimi viri, vestra dudum incepta sinodus felicissima; imo eam letissime gerimus, nobis pro certo statuentes hoc grave seculum, quo premimur, cuique flebiliter diu succubuimus, excidi; novos ac tales jam superventuros fore dies, quibus apud nostros antiquiores uberrime colebatur Deus, ac, quaque extincta heresi, stabat regnum in gloria sua. Ac quum de nostro olim grege sanctam vestram concionem pene totam extitisse in maximis gaudiis semper habemus; hinc modo ea vobiscum institui confidimus clementia, qua nostris

[1] This is the only instance in these letters of this form of flattery.

epistolis animi impendantur favenciores. Sed propriis quidem privatis negociis utiliora preponentes, adeo deflendam duximus esse rempublicam, uti jam septa mediis malis ad pejora celeriter citata sit. Neque enim hisce crebris mutacionibus infortuniisque seculum hoc nostrum turbatissimum diuturno mansurum tempore arbitramur, nisi vel magnus ille Olimpi rector Deus mundique arbiter rem totam gestiat, et pervigiles cure vestre intercedant pro subsidio. Hec et alia, prudentissimi homines, nobis sepissime cogitantibus, haud aliud quidquam sentimus quam universum regnum expectaturum esse sapienciam vestram: sapienciam, inquimus, non mundi sed Dei; qua, uti ethicus ille quondam ait Plato, reges regnant ac tutissime regna gubernantur. Quam itaque tam amplam tamque efficacem subinstituatis, ut Cristianissimus ac metuendissimus rex noster demum suis virtutibus equam gentem letetur invenisse; postmodumque, his gracia celestium huic beato fini sic reductis, nostre tunc singulares reipublice actores[1] sitis, precamur, emendatissimi. Jacuit quidem, et moribunda quasi jacuit, et quis cladem ejus ultro sustulit? Nempe, licet usque hec tempora nos ipsi eam amplexi fuerimus pro posse nostro, tum amplissime doctrinando, tum ejus domesticos vinculo pacis fovendo; in nos ita tamen et religionem Christi totus sevit mundus, quod nobis quasi dimidiate videantur scole nostre. Sed utcunque nostra modo versetur fortuna, numero quam paucos nos fore, ad abundantissima studia etatum preteritarum, subveniunt tamen nobis pauciores, nostrique fiunt labores velut repudiati. Quos enim honores ope propria obtinemus, non aliunde premiati, eisdem morimur. Ac tametsi in omni sciendi genere, inque clarissimis virtutibus prediti elaboratique fuerimus, simplices tamen et mediocriores ubique premiantur; extolluntur, pro dolor! ut alios doceant, qui seipsos docere nesciunt. Que quidem nephandissima, ut sic loquamur, enormitas superest nobis, confusio nostra. Quam, sapientissimi patres, si ad ciciorem perduci emendam operam non dederitis, plus longe quam sit timenda abjeccio nostra de errante vulgo dolendum erit; cujus profecto durissima cervix, nondum legibus divinis obtemperans, jam diu magis elegit iniquitatem agere quam loqui veritatem. Que res enim nisi vestros sic impulerit animos, que una fuit[2] gens sub rege uno, Anglia in se divisa desolabitur. Ast ne adhuc tot imminencia pericula super nos eveniant, in majori presertim haberi veneracione mandato tradatis beatam Frideswidam, advocatricem nostram. Per vestram totam, quesumus, provinciam speciali memoria commendetur; quo apud Altissimum gracias uberiores integrum regnum consequatur; obque felicem rem hanc et nos et futura secula in gloriam vestram

[1] *auctores?* [2] *fiat* MS.

pro perpetuo redundabimus. *Ab Oxonia, tercio Idus Maii.* Vestri oratores studiosissimi Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis ceterique studentes in eadem.

J. FARLEY[1].

241.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Synod, another letter. Fol. 112 b.

If, after you have corrected those disorders which now disfigure the Church, you can remember our affairs, you will greatly gladden our hearts. In you, most of whom have been nursed in the lap of our common mother, lies our main hope in our troubles; for others, who should be dear to us, are, we grieve to say, no comfort. Our numbers, small by comparison with those of past times, are not maintained by fresh admissions, because the labours of the student lead to no reward; while unlearned men devoid of proper qualification are promoted to benefices. The effect is deplorable, not to ourselves only, but to the ignorant and misguided people, who, lacking due instruction, fall away from the faith. To avert these evils, we beg that you will direct that more worship be paid to Saint Frideswide.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Thome, Dei gracia Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, tocius Anglie primati, necnon apostolice sedis legato Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis ceterique studentes in eadem debitam obedienciam; necnon toti reverendorum patrum sacrato cetui reverencias, prout decet, cum honore. Cum permulta, optatissimi patres, quibus hisce diebus Cristiane religionis fama sordidari solet, in sanctissima sinodo vestra—de qua non parum nos gavisuros existimetis—ad congruum statum reduxeritis; si nostram rempublicam aliquando memorie repetieritis, perjocundos nos facietis. Nec sunt sane hoc seculo nostro in quibus majorem spem aut audaciam ponamus, quam in benignitatibus vestris, quos olim pene omnes de unius matris nostre gremio extitisse quam planissime intelligimus. Nihil enim pium magis esse arbitramur, quam ut matri, calamitatibus periculisque exposite, auxilium et solamen feratis. Cum igitur mater nostra Universitas his proxima sit, nec vix sit ex omnibus caris ejus qui eam consoletur,—pro quo ab imo cordis nostri traximus suspiria,—senciat nunc vestra penes se viscera pietatis, quos olim senciit genuisse filios. Nam cum brevis inter nos studencium numerus inventus fuerit, si ad etates priores conferendum sit, subveniunt tamen nobis pauciores; 1471.

[1] This is the signature of the scribe of the University, from whom this register is usually named Registrum F. His duties seem to have commenced at this place in the volume.

nostrique fiunt labores velut repudiati. Quos enim honores scolasticis sudoribus consecuti sumus, non aliunde premiati, eisdem morimur. Simplices enim viri et mediocriores, virtutibus et sciencia destituti, ad sacros ordines indigne promoti, quos multorum obsequium paratissimos reperit, indignissime honoribus preferuntur. Extolluntur proh dolor! ut alios doceant, qui seipsos docere nesciunt. Preclari tamen viri moribus ac sciencia, quales plerique inter nos adinventi sunt, tanquam abjectissimi in ecclesia Cristi reputari visi sunt. Pro quibus, si non quam citissime remedia provideritis, non solum nostri, imo rudis ac errantis vulgi, de quo magis dolendum erit, confusio sequatur oportet; quod, nisi aliorum industria manuducatur, velut ovis errans in ruina semper presto est. Timendum ergo permultum est, ne qui mundo per baptismum nascuntur fideles, de mundo, erudiencium ob defectum, recedant infideles. Ut nihil igitur horum nobis eveniat, in majori haberi veneracione beatam Frideswidam mandato tradatis optamus. Per vestram totam, quesumus, provinciam speciali memoria commendetur; quo apud Altissimum gracias uberiores integrum regnum consequatur. Et si his animos impendatis benevolos, quibus judicio Dei[1] nihil acceptius aut nobis optatius efficere poteritis, et nos et futura secula in laudes vestras pro perpetuo redundabimus. *Ab Oxonia, quarto Idus Novembris.* Vestri oratores studiosissimi.

242.

To the Bishop of Exeter [George Nevyl].

We well know your benevolence to us both now and heretofore, and that we have so influential a patron, to whom we may fly in our difficulties, is our greatest happiness. The bearer of this will relate to you in detail the subject of our present application to you; and we are very sorry that the expenses in building the new school have been so great that we cannot afford to send a deputation to remain and look after our interests; but we hope that Masters Shirewode and Chipnam, the Chancellors of the diocese and of your office, will suffice to act for us.

1471. REVERENDISSIMO in Cristo patri ac domino, Domino Georgio, Dei gracia[2] Exoniensi Episcopo, Cancellario Anglie ac domino nostro singularissimo, reverencias tanto patri debitas cum honore. Non est nobis incognitum, beatissime pater, quanto favore quantaque benevolencia et humanitate respublica nostra apud sanctitatem vestram superioribus diebus impresentiarumque habita sit. Qua in re nulla usquam majori affici possumus jocunditate, quam talem patrem ac

[1] *Deo* MS. [2] *gracia* omitted ib.

patronum habere, qualem amplitudinem vestram vere scimus; ad quem in arduis ac necessitudine positi confugere audacissime valeamus, ac presertim quibusquam nunc peragendis negociis, pro quorum felici expedicione nostra spes ac dulce solamen in vestra dominacione posita sunt: de quibus harum lator planissimam facturus est relacionem. Et nos quidem, ob has ac plurimas preostensas beneficencias vestras, quoad auras traxerimus vitales, curabimus ut vestre dominacionis oratores, ac vestrarum laudum memoratu dignissimarum precones studiosi simus. Et cum, ob graves nobis circa scolarum edificia factas expensas, permulta impediti sumus egestate ne aliquos de nostris immoraturos mittamus, qui circa isthec negocia operas dare queant; optamus plurimum ut doctissimi ac satis spectati viri, magister J. Shirewod, sacre theologie professor necnon vestre cathedralis ecclesie Exoniensis Cancellarius, ac magister T. Chipnam, sacrorum canonum doctor vestreque dignitatis Cancellarius, causarum ac negociorum nostrorum promotores et actores esse possint. Et valete in plurimam etatem. *Ab Oxonia, quarto Idus Novembris.* Vestre dignitatis[1]. . . .

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 113 a.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo primo die mensis Novembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham sub hac forma. Noverint universi per presentes nos, magistros Thomam Chawndelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Robertum Elyot, Thomam Purmer, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynysham in comitatu Oxoniensi viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, nonodecimo die mensis Novembris, anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo nono*[2]. **1460.**

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo octavo die mensis Novembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de sedecim solidis in festo S. Nicholai Universitati Oxoniensi, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis debite et solvende, cujus forma patet supra. **1460.**

[1] The remainder of the subscription is wanting, MS. [2] See p. 356 note.

Magistro Johanni Astone.

The accounts of several chests show a great deficit, and the pledges lack the seal of the stationer. We give you friendly warning, before issuing our formal citation, and advise you to make the accounts straight immediately.

1460. CANCELLARIUS Universitatis Oxoniensis necnon ejusdem procuratores totusque magistrorum regencium cetus plurimam[1] salutem. Cum nuper, ut soliti sumus, ad annuales computaciones quarumdam cistarum nostrarum operam daremus, reperimus quidem eas, et[2] presertim caucionibus, quamplurimum lesas, signo item notorio nostri communis stationarii vacuis ac[3] destitutis, ad nostrum non mediocre damnum et tuum periculum quam maximam. Hinc, ne talia tuam amplius pretereant conscienciam et voluntariis, quod absit, tradantur oblivionibus ista tue saluti nunc sane instanterque duximus fore proponenda. Ad que, tua quidem fide nostre quondam prestita Universitati, respondere in singulisque satisfacere habes omni posse. Ac ideo prima quidem hac vice, nostris ex mandato citatoriis litteris pie ac satis humaniter indulgentes, tantummodo tibi consulimus, imo consulendo hortamur, ut in isto[4] negocio tui ipsius[5] . . . fias, nobisque emenda sit quam festina. Et vale. *Ab Oxonia, sextodecimo Kalendas Januarias.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1460. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo septimo die mensis Januarii, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis debite, cujus forma patet supra.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1460. MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo die mensis Februarii, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de viginti sex solidis, in capite jejunii Universitati Oxoniensi debitis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis debite et solvende, cujus forma patet supra.

243.

Fol. 113 b. **To George Nevyl, Bishop of Exeter and Lord Chancellor.**

We received a few days ago your highly valued letter, expressing that benevolence towards us and readiness to help and defend us which you have ever manifested from early youth. May God reward you! We

[1] *plurimas* MS. [2] *et iis presertim caucionibus lesas quamplurimum* ib. [3] *ad* ib. [4] *isto enim* ib. [5] A word lost, ib.

are greatly distressed that you had to complain in your letter of certain ill-disposed persons among our members. We solemnly assure you that, by citations, excommunications and, in doubtful cases, by admitting the accused to purgation, and by threatening the heaviest punishments we have done, and will do, our best to correct the guilty. We need not remind you that there have at all times been evil men among us, and in these troubled times their presence need be no surprise. If their conduct bring us into danger, we have confidence that you will aid us by your counsel and your defence, so doubly necessary in these dark days. It is not just that the innocent should suffer with the guilty. The bearer of this will say what we dare not write.

REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Georgio, Dei gracia Exoniensi episcopo, Cancellario, nostro domino singularissimo, reverenciam tanto patri debitam cum honore. Perpauci abiere post terga dies, beatissime pater, cum litteras tuas spectatissimas ac nobis optatissimas quam clare intellexerimus, in quibus sane benevolencia, subsidium ac singulare patrocinium tuum ab ineunte adolescencia penes nos ac matrem nostram, Universitatem Oxoniensem, que superioribus diebus re persepenumero experti sumus, quam luculenter sunt declarata. Quas ob res, cum longe ultra vires nostras sit ut pares sanctitati tue hisce pro meritis gracias conferamus, justus omnium retributor Deus perdigna ut reddat premia obsecramus. Nam si omnia nobis collata beneficia memorie commendare instituamus, nihil unquam tam preciosum comperiemus, quo magis nos obligatos fore fateremur, quam pro benevolo animo tuo et vere probato penes nos amore. Unde nos precesque nostras, quibus nullum majus munus elargiri possumus, habes habebisque quoad vixerimus. Percussi etiam sumus permaximo intrinsecus dolore de maligna disposicione quorumdam nostrum, de qua in scriptis tuis te doluisse testaris. Sedulas certe dedimus operas, immortali Deo teste, tum citando, tum excommunicando, tum suspectos ad purgaciones vocando, tum minis de gravissimis infligendis suppliciis: curabimusque diligentissime in futurum ut idemptidem faciamus. Non tuum, ut certi sumus, effugit animum, benignissime pater, nullum fuisse tempus, in quo non aliqui scelerati inter nos inventi sint; licet gravissime his imposite sint pene. Quare si isto seculo tales apud nos habiti sunt, quod nusquam pax aut tranquillitas est, non admiracione dignum putetur. Confisi tamen sumus in benignitate tua, ut si quid rei adversum nos pro his aut aliis agatur, consilio et[1] auxilio, in quibus tota spes nostra ac dulce solamen sita sunt, ad tuicionem nostram 1460.

[1] *ut consilio auxilio* MS.

paratissimus sis; et presertim turbatissimis hisce diebus, tanto magis quanto pluribus periculis majorique perplexitati[1] expositi sumus. Non enim equum est ut perituri sint justi cum impiis. Et cum id desiderii habeas, ut nos faciles atque flexibiles his, que mandata nobis sunt, prebeamus, fidem atque confidenciam harum latori des velimus. Huic secreta nostra committimus; hic responsum, Deo duce, daturus est; in Quo ut longam felicemque vitam agas permultum gavisuros nos putes. Vale, optime pater, nostri, cum res postulet, memor. *Oxonie.*

244.

Fol. 114 a. To George Nevyl, Bishop of Exeter and Lord Chancellor.

Since your departure so low have our fortunes fallen, that we are regarded with looks of contempt and triumph by laymen both of this city and other places. Our very country seems no longer ours, and our city walls scarce afford protection. What the cause may be we know not; but let the common herd think of us as they please; you know our true sentiments and how we are ever ready to carry out your orders. This the people will not comprehend; and though we wonder that strangers are thus disposed, the ill-will of the laymen in the city is chiefly deplored by us. Whatever crimes these have committed, they refuse to submit to correction by the authority of the University. They are determined to govern and not be governed; and, led by one of the principal citizens—well known to you—they violate our privileges and endeavour to establish a precedent against them. We look for your help, especially when it shall be necessary to bring the matter before the King.

1460. Reverendo in Christo patri et domino, Domino Georgio, Dei gracia Exoniensi episcopo, Anglie Cancellario, &c. Ex quo e nostro abiisti celo vultumque tuum[2] felicissimum in longinquis partibus transegeris, adeo, beatissime pater, vices nostre ceciderunt, quod perobliquos aspectus ac capita ferme elatissima in nos projicere sublimareque tam exteri quam domestici laici usurparunt; qui prope siquidem despectum ita nos habent, ut neque patria nobis secura sit, neque proprii muri vix maximis absque periculis nobis pacem indulgeant. Ac unde quidem ortum ceperit malicia hec, Deus scit, nos autem nescimus. Opinetur de nobis nesciens vulgus uti vult: tu enim nosti benesatis animos nostros, qui omnino tuis consiliis acquievimus, et que nobis sub mandato ex tuis officinis a rege processerunt, humiles ac faciles semper fuimus ad explendum. Non placet tamen vulgo intelligere istud. Ob quod, tametsi plurimum de exteris laicis hac in parte

[1] *perplexitate* MS. [2] *vitamque tuam*, &c.?

admiremur, plus longe tamen nostrorum villanorum malicias corde gerimus dolendas esse. Nam hi quidem penes nostram almam Universitatem, in qualiacunque modo ceciderunt crimina, flecti nolunt ad correccionem. Regere cupiunt et non regi; pro consule capitaneoque suo unum de primis civibus exaltantes, quem tua peroptime noverit dominacio infestum clericis ab antiquo. Negant infringuntque nostra privilegia, contrariaque attemptantes pro lege tenent. Qua in re tuum jam prestolamur patrocinium, utique in ultimis tuis epistolis dulcissimis scripsisti, te nostrum patronum, nostrum consulem, nostrum procuratorem ostendas obsecramus; at nedum in his presertim, sed quomodo et quum ad illustrissimi ac invictissimi regis nostri celsitudinem laborandum erit, ut ea que pauca nobis supersunt privilegia sua speciali gracia confirmentur. Et vale, diuque vive felicissime. *Ab Oxonia, tercio Idus Maii.*

I. Φαρλει[1].

Testimonial letter for Master John Prekynge.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo primo, tercio die Novembris, sigillata erat una littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Prekynge, sub communi forma. 1461.

Testimonial letter for Master John Chyrme.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo primo, quinto die Novembris, sigillata erat una littera testimonialis pro magistro Johanne Chyrme. 1461.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo primo, sextodecimo die Novembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enensam de viginti sex solidis; in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis, cujus forma patet supra. 1461.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo primo, septimo decimo die Decembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et Conventui de Oseny, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis Universitati debite, cujus forma patet supra. 1461.

[1] Master Farley, the scribe, here and at the foot of several of the following letters, writes his name in rude Greek character; not a little proud, perhaps, of being able to do so.

245.

Fol. 114 b.

To the Bishop of Chichester.

Upon examination of our affairs, we have found that our resources have fallen so low, in consequence of new buildings undertaken and old ones repaired, that we are compelled to call in all moneys due to us. Though we find your great name among our debtors, we regard it rather as that of a benefactor; and beg that you will so deal with us that your name, erased from our books, may be recorded in the book of life.

1461. Vicesimo septimo die mensis Novembris, sigillata erat una littera episcopo Cicestrensi, cujus forma est hec.

Reverendo in Christo patri et domino, domino Johanni, Dei gracia Cicestrensi episcopo, plurimas reverencias cum honore: Cum dudum, colendissime pater, communium bonorum nostrorum quendam faceremus visum generalem; ea profecto, quid novis edificiis, quid antiquorum reparacionibus, tam prope exterminata sentimus, quod libros debitorum nostrorum intimius revolvere sumus coacti. In quibus etsi magnificum nomen tuum haud abrasis elementis, imo sane adhuc scriptum compertum sit, non ideo de ipsis debitoribus nostris te unum esse, sed inter benefactores nobis dominos pocius volumus speramusque te connumerari. Rem tamen hanc, nostra cum gravi indigencia, harum lator tue quidem consciencie plenius expresseque magis explicare habet. Cui des, exoramus, fidem; ageque super nos, felicissime presul, pietatem tuam, ut a nostris cedulis nomen habeas cancellatum, et post scribendum in libro vite. Vale, &c.

Ιωαννης Φαρλει.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1461. Eodem die sigillata fuit una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham de sedecim solidis, sub forma communi.

Acquittance of Master Stephen Tylor, lately the librarian of the University.

1461. Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Johannem Morre et Johannem Thorpe, procuratores ejusdem Universitatis, remisisse, relaxasse et in perpetuum quietum clamasse, pro nobis et successoribus nostris, dilecto nobis in Christo magistro Stephano Tyler, nuper custodi communis librarie Universitatis predicte, omnimodas acciones reales

et personales, quas unquam penes eum habuimus, habemus, seu quovismodo in futuro habere poterimus, racione custodie librarie predicte, ab origine mundi usque in diem confeccionis presencium. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis antedicte presentibus litteris apposuimus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, septimo decimo die mensis Februarii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum primo.*

Testimonial letter for brother Gonsalvo, of the Friars minors.

MEMORANDUM, quod vicesimo die mensis Februarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo primo, sigillata erat una littera testimonialis pro fratre Gundesalvo, ordinis minorum; super ac de complecione regencie sue in [1] theologia, sub forma antiqua. 1461.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod quinto die mensis Aprilis sigillata fuit una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enensham, de viginti sex solidis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum secundo, sub forma communi.

246.

To the Duchess of Suffolk [2]. Fol. 115 b.

RYGTH hye and nobyll princes, we recommend us to yow mekely, wt the gostelye suffrages of owre prayers for your good estate and prosperite and alle your wellwyllyng; devowtely praynge almyghty god, the verie and indubitabyll rewarder of every good and meritorie dede, to supplessh owre insufficience, as for a due recompense un to your gracious ladyshyp on owre partye, for yowre nobill and notabill geffts, not many yers passed geven un to us, to the increce of vertue and cunnyng, and releff of the grete onerous and importabyll costes a bowte the edifieng of owre newe scoles of divinite; not yett by cause of owre insufficience and poverte perfectely complesshed, but by yowre gracious and large beneficence in especialle, and other benefactors also, wele augmentyd and toward nowe, wt lytyll socowre and helpe, a perfyte end, by the grace of god. And for as muche as not alle only thes yowre aforsaid nobyll and notabill geffts un to owre moder the Universite beth for ever for to be considered and had in mynd, but moreovyr your graciouse and vertuous continuance un to her;

[1] *inter* MS. [2] Probably to the Duchess of Suffolk.

she therefor, as not unbownd, takyng uppon her the office of the devowte woman sum tyme of Cananye, shalle nevyr cese cryyng and callyng un to Christe for your good estate and prosperite, and alle youres duryng thys present lyff, and afterward for a perpetuall and a joyfull blysse wt owte ende. amen. *Wryten at Oxonford in owre congregacion hows the ix kal. of April.*

247.

Testimonial letter for the Archbishop of Dublin.

The most illustrious labours in the study of theology are discredited by the malevolent and denied by the ignorant. Feeling, therefore, that, when one of our members is assailed by ignominy, envy, calumny, hatred or ingratitude, our whole body corporate is injured; we declare that we welcome the visit of the Archbishop of Dublin to his mother the University, and consider his sojourn among us one of our highest honours.

1462. Tercio die mensis Julii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo secundo, sigillata erat littera testimonialis Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Michaeli, Dei gracia Dubliniensi archiepiscopo, sub forma que sequitur. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere venerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem plurimam salutem. Cum [enim] res ille preclare ac monimento dignissime, que in sacris aguntur studiis, sepe a maledicis ingratisque viris obtrectentur; et apud ignorancia tentos pocius abnegate quam credite, pocius abjecte existant quam accepte; dolemus inde ac urgemur, et in quantum possumus apponimus opem; quociensque res expetit nostra, utraque manu libenter afferimus testimonium veritati. Nam nostra profecto res est, si injuste est ignominia, calumnia, livor, seu quodcunque aliud malicie genus, aut odii aut ingratitudinis in alumnos nostros; ac presertim in eos, qui, postquam preclarissimis ornentur virtutibus, et altissimas nobiscum scolas digne satis[1] . . . , non ut oblivionis, sed ut benememores et grati filii, suam colendissimam matrem repetant, visitent ac revereantur[2]. Inter quos jam habemus apud nos primo commendatum prestantissimum illum virum, reverendissimum in Christo patrem, dominum Michaelem, Dei gracia Dubliniensem archiepiscopum, Hibernie primatem, ac libere capelle regie S. Michaelis archangeli de Penchrych decanum perillustrem; necnon nostre cathedre sacre theologie professorem sane

[1] A word unintelligible here ('*anaserint*'): probably the passage should be read, *postquam*, &c., *scalas ascenderint*; not *scolas* (or *scholas*).

[2] *reverentur* MS.

dignissimum: qui[1] ea quippe in veneracione nostram sanctissimam habet Universitatem, ut tam illustris viri presentia quosdam sibi novos et ferme maximos obtinuisse honores seipsam putet; et eo longe ampliores, quo sub nostro dignetur celo diutius obversari. Cujus itaque, in superiori beatissime Virginis Marie natali festo, felicem suscepimus adventum, et felicissime ejus residentiam, ad istos qui instant dies, his litteris nostris commendamus. *Datum, &c.*

Ιωαννης Φαρλει.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 116 a.

SECUNDO die Decembris sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de sedecim solidis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis ad festum S. Nicholai Universitati debite, sub forma communi. 1462.

To the Prior and Convent of Durham.

We certify you that we have chosen our Vice-chancellor, Master W. Yve, to be rector of Appleby, the nomination to that benefice having been given to us by you.

SECUNDO die mensis Januarii, sigillata et missa erat una littera Priori et conventui de Dunelm., cujus forma sequitur. Religiosissimo viro domino Johanni[2], permissione divina priori ecclesie cathedralis Dunelm:, necnon ejusdem loci toti devoto capitulo plurimam salutem. Paucis jam consumptis annis placuit vobis, probati viri, et pie et ex Deo placuit, ut speratur, concessisse dedisseque nobis potestatem nominandi personam aliquam, aptam quidem et idoneam, ad ecclesiam parochialem de Apelby Lincolniensis diocesis et in comitatu Leycestrie, modo rectore destitutam. Certificamus eapropter gravitates vestras prestantissimum virum, magistrum Willelmum Yve, vice-cancellarium nostrum sacreque theologie professorem sane dignissimum, ad predictam ecclesiam nominatum fore; sic et prout in litteris vestris hac vice tantum nos hujusmodi personam nominare decrevistis. Et valete et vivite feliciter. *Ab Oxonia quarto Kalendas Februarias.* 1463.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

VICESIMO die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo tercio, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de viginti sex solidis, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis ad festum omnium Sanctorum Universitati debite, sub forma communi. 1463.

[1] There is, as usual, no difficulty in the writing here, but the sense seems to require *qui ea habetur in veneratione apud nostram*, &c. [2] *Janni* MS.

Eodem die sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de viginti sex solidis, in completam solucionem cujusdam annue [pensionis][1] in capite jejunii nobis debite.

Eodem die sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis, in completam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis nobis debite, sub forma communi.

Vicesimo quinto die Octobris, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti tercio sigillata erat acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynesham in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis[2] ad festum omnium sanctorum Universitati debite, sub forma communi.

Acquittance of John Swaen and John Stokes.

1463. Quinto die mensis Novembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia Johanni Swaen et Johanni Stokes, de Sandewico in comitatu Cantie, de quatuor libris solutis Universitati in partem solucionis majoris summe, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum tercio.

Commendatory letter for Master William Baret.

1463. Quinto decimo die Novembris, sigillate erant littere commendatorie pro magistro Willelmo Baret, sub forma communi.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1463. Undecimo die mensis Decembris, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham, de sedecim solidis, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis ad festum S. Nicholai Universitati debite, sub forma communi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo tertio.

Obligation to repay a loan borrowed from the Danvers Chest.

1463. Tercio die mensis Februarii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum tercio, sigillata erat obligacio quedam, sub forma que sequitur; Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Walterum Hylle, Willelmum Corte, procuratores ejusdem, necnon cetum unanimem magistrorum regencium ibidem concessisse totam pecuniam, levandam a proximo componente cum Universitate predicta, et medietatem pecunie levande a ceteris postea cum Universitate componentibus, restauracioni summe centum librarum ciste de Danvers applicandas, nullique alii usui,

[1] *pensionis* omitted in MS. [2] *xxvj. s.* on margin, MS.

priusquam predicta summa restituatur, tradendas. In cujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras sigillo communi nostre Universitatis fecimus communiri. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, die mensis et anno regis Edwardi predictis.*

248.

To the Abbot of S. Alban's (John Whethampsted). **Fol. 116 b.**

If we have not written as soon as we might have done, it has not been because we forgot your great and divine gift; a gift which will immortalize your name and ours. We rejoice that our mother, the University, has reared such a son, and we thank the Creator of all things for his work. Were we to be silent, your books would declare what you are. The 'Granarium' was presented to us by the Duke of Gloucester, and you have now added the 'Propinarium,' so that we may say, he appeased our hunger and you have now slaked our thirst.

RELIGIOSISSIMO viro Johanni, Dei gracia ecclesie S. Albani prelato dignissimo, plurimam salutem. Tametsi epistolas nostras longo jam tempore distulerimus, non eo existimes, ex animo rogamus, immemores nos esse quid condonaris[1] ac quam bene feceris nobis. Donasti namque rem grandem et divinam, que nedum perpetuis erit in seculis ad gloriam tui nominis, imo et nostri, alumne noster. Inde plurimum gaudemus, inde quasi felicem arbitramur esse colendissimam matrem Universitatem nostram aliquando nutrivisse te: inde summo rerum Opifici gracias habemus uberrimas; nec usquam sane uberiores vel Greci vel Itali pro suis dicendi causam habuere, quam pro te nos Britanni. Nam, si hac in re silere vellemus, opera enim[2] tua manifestant te; opera presertim illa tua magnifica, non uno quidem sed pluribus et pulcerrimis contenta voluminibus, que, ut tuis utamur vocabulis, '*granarium*' et '*propinarium*' dignum feceris appellari. Quorum alterum dedit nobis ille litteratissimus princeps, dux olim Humfridus amicissimus noster, alterum vero tu: Et sic quasi dignantia[3] quadam primum secundum appetierit. Jam utrumque opus tuum magna in veneracione integre suscepimus et habemus; jam sitim nostram, quam a diu passi sumus, extinxisti: jam, si ita liceat priora vocabula codicibus consignata tuis interpretari, potum ad panem attulisti. Quamobrem, ut, qui mortalium adhuc pateris sitim, de fonte ad plenum bibas eterno, immortales Deo faciemus preces nostras. **1463.**

[1] *condoneris* MS. [2] *tamen*? [3] This word partially lost; seems to be *dignantia*, whatever that may mean.

Vale, vivasque feliciter. *Ab Oxonia Idibus Marcii.* Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium.

I. Φαρλει.

Acquittances of Oseney and Eynsham Abbeys.

1464. Undecimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo quarto, sigillata erat acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, de viginti sex solidis et octo denariis in plenam solucionem, &c.

Eodem die ejusdem mensis et eodem die [1], sigillata erat acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, de viginti sex solidis in plenam solucionem, &c.

Primo die mensis Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo quarto, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eynysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, de sedecim solidis Universitati debitis in festo S. Nicholai, in completam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis.

1465. Duodecimo die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti quinto, sigillate sunt due acquietancie, sub forma sequenti : Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, ac Thomam Pawnton et Johannem Payntor, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu monasterii de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum; in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite et concesse : De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis, in plenam solucionem, ut prefertur, receptis, fatemur nos fore solutos; dictosque Abbatem et conventum et successores suos inde esse quietos per presentes: In cujus rei testimonium, sigillum nostrum commune presentibus est appensum. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, die mense et anno supradictis.*

Secunda acquietancia sigillatur sub hac forma: Noverint Universi per presentes nos, Georgium Nevill, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, ac Thomam Pawnton et Johannem Payntor, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate de Oseney et conventu de Oseney Eynsham [2] in comitatu Oxoniensi, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis, dicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite et concesse: De quibus quidem quin-

[1] *anno?* [2] Such is the mess in the MS. Apparently it ought to be *de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham.*

quaginta duobus solidis, in plenam solucionem, ut prefertur, receptis, fatemur nos fore solutos; dictosque Abbatem et conventum et successores suos inde esse quietos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune Universitatis predicte, &c.

Nono die Novembris, sigillata est acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Enysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, de viginti sex solidis, debitis Universitati in festo omnium Sanctorum, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo quinto. 1465.

249.

To the general council of the Order of St. Benedict. Fol. 117 a.

We have a lively remembrance that it is to your order that we owe the introduction of the faculty of theology to this University, and that it was by your labours that the gospel was taught to this nation; and we have therefore always honoured your order beyond any other men. How then does it happen that some of your members have left us? This unusual step must, we fear, cause great mischief, and we know no reason for it; if therefore you will acquaint us with the cause, we will do our best to remove it.

Primo die Julii, littera missa ab Universitate generali consilio monachorum ordinis Benedicti. 1465.

Cum recens admodum apud nos sit, religiosi patres, quemadmodum theologie sacra facultas per vos primum in nostram Universitatem ingressa est, neque eciam pretereant nos labores permaximi, quos olim vestre religionis sanctissimi viri habuere, ut sanctissimam legem Anglorum genti[1] traderent edocendam, atque ob id vos et vestri ordinis viros ante alios merito penes nos semper duximus preferendos; non parvam igitur animo cepimus admiracionem, quod jam dudum vestrum quidam—absit ut omnes—ab hac nostra Universitate sese transtulerunt. Res nova nimis, et a nostris longe facta diebus, ut viri tam graves numeroque non pauci locum sic mutarent: honestum locum, in quo antehac hujus religionis viri ceteris multum impares floruere; locum certe ubi in hunc usque diem non desunt theologici, qui quantum in sanctissimo studio profecerint[2], aliorum volumus sit judicium; nedum de nostris, verum de exteris, qui longe lateque ad nos confluunt ut discant. Neque hunc vestrorum abscessum absque scandalo fieri cernimus. Quod ne nostrum vertatur in caput, causam, patres, si libeat dicere, non sit pigitum; que nobis cum constiterit, Deo id

[1] *gente* MS. [2] *professerint* ib.

volente, quod racio dederit, nostra ex parte fiet. Et in Domino valete, carissimi patres. *Oxonie, primo die Julii.* Universitas regencium omnium facultatum Oxonie.

250.

To the Bishop of Chichester.

1465. REVERENDO in Christo patri et domino, Domino Johanni, Dei gracia Cicestrensi episcopo, plurimas reverencias cum honore: Cum dudum[1] &c.

Fol. 117 b.

Citation of Master John Smyth.

1465. VICESIMO tercio die mensis Novembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo quinto, sigillata erat citacio, prout sequitur: Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, necnon ejusdem procuratores totusque magistrorum regencium cetus magistro Johanni Smyth salutem: Cum nuper, ut solemus, ad annales computaciones cistarum operam[2] . . . . , reperimus quidem eas, tuis presertim caucionibus, lesas quamplurimum; ad nostrum non mediocre dampnum et tuum periculum permaximum. Hinc, ne talia tuam pretereant conscienciam, et voluntariis, quod absit, tradantur oblivionibus, ista tue saluti nunc sane instanterque duximus fore proponenda: ad que tua equidem fide nostre quondam prestita Universitati respondere, in singulisque satisfacere habes omni posse. Quocirca tibi districte precipiendo mandamus, et primo, secundo ac tercio peremptorie citamus, ut, infra quindecim dies post recepcionem presencium, coram nobis in domo nostre congregacionis personaliter compareas, premissis responsurus, ac deinde facturus et recepturus quod justicia in hac parte suadebit. *Datum ut prius.*

Acquittance of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

1465. SEXTO die mensis Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo quinto, sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Eneysham, pro quadam pensione sedecim solidorum; cujus forma patet supra.

Eodem die sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati et conventui de Osney, pro quadam annua pensione viginti sex solidorum octo denariorum; cujus forma patet supra.

[1] This letter is a copy verbatim of No. 245 *supra*. The bishop seems to have disregarded the former application. [2] *daremus* omitted in MS.

251.

To the Executors of the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Confidence in your character, no doubt, made the bishop entrust his property to you; and we, for the same reason, appeal to your charity, in behalf of our mother and yours. Surely the charity of a son can not be better shown than by the relief of his mother's poverty; nor the property of a bishop be better employed than in supporting the Catholic faith. Our expenses on various repairs, and in building the new school, have entirely exhausted our purse, but we have never felt the pinch of poverty so deeply as now, when the school of Canon Law is in such a state that it must be rebuilt, or, if not, we shall lose an annual rent of four marks.

QUARTO decimo Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo quinto, sigillata erat littera, prout sequitur: Cum inter ceteros hujus Universitatis alumpnos vos non modo scienciis claros esse, verum eciam pietate summaque humanitate pollere quamplurimum, nos[1] minime pretereat, adeo quidem quod reverendus ille in Christo pater et dominus, nuper Bathoniensis episcopus, sua vestre fidei bona permisit; vestram igitur nunc caritatem exposcimus omnes; parenti nunc vestre, quam non parva nunc urget pauperies, opem ferre satagite; ut ea, hac in necessitate posita, vos sibi natos senciat gratissimos. Nam quibus pocius matris inopia cure esse debebit, quam iis filiis, quos bona pie disponenda habere notum est? aut cui itidem ecclesiastice sacius opes, quam in fidei catholice augmentum, refundi congruit? Verum quamquam antehac nostram rempublicam, tum circa vetustarum edium non paucas reparaciones, tum eciam circa novarum scolarum fabricam aliasque circa necessitudines, facti sumptus complures ad summam ferme inopiam[2] redegere; nunquam tamen eque ac modo paupertas nobis onus visum est et miserum et grave, cum juris canonici scole eo loco site sint, [3]ut aut eas nunc de novo edificare opus est, quod ne facere quidem possumus, aut quatuor marcarum redditum annualem earumdem ruina—quam superi prohibeant!—amittere oportebit. Agite ergo, amicissimi viri, ad[4] nos multo omnium pauperrimos pietatis tandem viscera extendite, atque nostram rempublicam, ad ipsa fortune jam ima ferme labascentem[5], ab egestatis labe ita graciose tuemini, ut illius piissimi domini ac vestra memoria apud nos tam firmiter tamque profunde[6] insita fiat, quod eam nulla unquam delere poterit oblivio. Valete nostri memores, viviteque feliciter. *Ab Oxonia, ut supra.* 1465.

[1] *non* MS. [2] *inopiatu* ib. [3] *ut et eas* ib. [4] The MS. had originally *super nos hec*, but it is altered as above by a contemporary hand. [5] *labescentem* MS. [6] *produnde* ib.

Acquittance of the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College.

1468. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyl, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Harrow et Nicholaum Langton[1], ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de custode et sociis collegii 'animarum' in Oxonia predicta, viginti quatuor solidos sterlingorum, bone ac legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione duarum aularum quondam vocatarum '*Tenchewyk Inne*' ac '*Cathal*': De quibus quidem viginti quatuor solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque custodem et socios inde acquietamus per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, duodecimo die Aprilis anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum nono*[2].

252.

Fol. 118 a. **To the Archbishop of York, the Chancellor of the University.**

Whereas one John Lydford, in violation of our privilege (by which members of this University are to be tried in the Chancellor's court here), has cited one of our proctors and another master of Arts to appear before the Archbishop of Canterbury, we pray you to protect our interests in this cause, and not suffer our rights to be infringed.

1466. Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo sexto, vicesimo sexto Aprilis sigillata erat hec littera domino Cancellario, prout sequitur.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Dei gracia Archiepiscopo Eboracensi, Oxoniensis Universitatis cetus sese quam humiliter commissum facit. Iniquo animo, dignissime presul, pateremur eos hujus alme Universitatis legibus et juri derogare, quos nostro patrocinio fovimus, nostrisque preceptis enutrivimus, ni eximia pietas in omnes tua, egregius animus et immensa caritas erga rempublicam nostram nobis spectata foret; qua tantopere freti sumus ut nihil te nobis opem ferente adversari posse formidemus; cum summi pontificis privilegiis, saluti et Universitati nostre consulentis, cautum extiterit, ne quis studencium quempiam extra Universitatem in judicium devocaret; ne sapiencie et bonis artibus incumbentes plurium jurisdiccione a virtute distraherentur. Quod cum ita sit, nos, hujus celeber-

[1] This acquittance is an instance, more glaring than usual, of insertion, in a vacant place at the foot of the folio, of an article belonging to another year. It would seem also that the date given is wrong, for the proctors here mentioned held office in the year 1468, which would be the eighth, not the ninth, of Edward IV.

[2] See p. 385.

rime Universitatis tue commissarius, procuratores ac tocius reipublice unanimis cetus tuam eciam atque eciam deprecamur clemenciam, ne quid adversum Universitatem nostram nostraque privilegia moliri sinas; que juris quidam bachallarius, dominus Johannes Lydford, preter majorum consuetudinem, reipublice dignitatem, et privilegiorum auctoritatem refringere nititur. Dominum enim procuratorem australem, alterumque, nostrum actualiter regentem, in Universitatis prejudicium ante dominum Cantuariensem citavit. Quapropter, reverendissime pater, pro consuetudine et animo erga rempublicam tuo, tuaque solita in nos pietate, oramus hanc equissimam honestissimam ac justissimam causam tutari, fovere et protegere digneris. Quod si, ut oramus utque omnes sperant et predicant, consequimur; memoria seculorum omnium paternitati tue nos magis atque magis[1] astrictos obligatosque reddes. Vale, 'presidium et dulce decus' nostrum. *Ex Oxonia, ut supra.*

253.

To the Archbishop of York, for Master Thomas Danet. Fol. 118 b.

The Graces are represented as ever young and fair, to represent, we suppose, that gratitude should not be suffered to decay. We most heartily thank you, therefore, for all your goodness. And now we confidently invoke your powerful aid for Master Thomas Danet, prosecuted on a false charge, and imprisoned on a former occasion; and now again cited to appear in London, in violation of our privilege.

Vicesimo primo Junii sigillata erat littera domino Cancellario, pro magistro Thoma Danet. 1466.

Cum prestantissime mentis tue benignitatem, dignissime pontifex, rerum effectus, beneficenciam, ac liberalitatem tuam mente repetimus, nihil est quod vereamur magis, quam ne ingratitudinis nomine reprehensione digni censeamur. Greci et Latini vates, Gracias etate adolescentulas et novas corpore et mente sinceras et incorruptas esse edocentes, hoc sensisse rati sumus, ut nullo pacto apud nos eas consenescere sinamus; ne et susceptorum meritorum uti immemores damnemur, et timidiores ad hoc, quod optamus, impetrandum impresentiarum reddamur. Maximas tibi gracias, dignissime pontifex, liberalissime munificencie tue habemus, longeque majores indies, cum occasio nobis prestita erit, nos habituros et reddituros speramus. Impresenciarum autem cum[2] et materna pietas, et eximia hujus alme

[1] *atque magisque* MS. [2] Part of this letter, beginning abruptly at this place, is written on fol. 118 a. Then the whole letter occurs again on fol. 118 b, as here given.

Universitatis tue affeccio erga proprios filios tanta sit, dignissime pontifex, ut omnes propria dignitate et auctoritate ac defensione tua sospites esse cupiat; has tibi [omnium doctorum et][1] gravium hominum protectori dare non dubitamus. Summa enim pietas et caritas in omnes tua neminem se defensioni tue credentem patre et tutore[2] destitutum patitur. Pro hujus legitimo Universitatis filio aliud litterarum nostrarum tibi dare commonuit, ut, pro solito tuo in omnes animo, Thomam Danet, studio omnium preclarissimarum arcium preditum, in ea causa, quam te penes actitat hujus alme Universitatis nomine, commissum habeas, supplices oramus. Non fugiat te, reverendissime pater, Thomam prefatum falsarum injuriarum nomine, Galfridi Harberti instigacione ac inductu, quartodecimo Kalendas Maii acriter vexatum ac duro carcere conclusum, amicorum opera inde exemptum; impresenciarum, secundo, ad judicium Londoniis, preter tue alme Universitatis dignitatem privilegia et honorem, revocari. Quas ob res, quoad suppliciter orare possumus, hanc abs te causam susceptam, et intra jurisdiccionis et judicii tui limites discussam, optatum finem consequi videre percupimus. Quam si, pro rei publice tue dignitate et nostre sentencie voto, decisam[3] tandem conspexerimus, rem nobis gratissimam, nec dignitati ac honori tuo alienam, confecisse cognosces. *Ex Oxonia, vicesimo primo Junii.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1466. Septimo die Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo sexto sigillata erat una acquietancia Abbati de Eynsham pro sedecim solidis, cujus forma[4] prius patet.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1466. Eodem die sigillata erat una acquietancia domino Abbati[5] de Osney pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis, pro quadam annua pensione.

Citation.

1466. Duodecimo die mensis sigillata erat una citacio magistro Johanni[6] cujus forma prius habetur.

[1] The words inclosed in brackets are added, by the same hand, on the margin of MS. [2] *haud destitutum* MS. [3] *quumque*, or perhaps *quandoque tandem* ib. [4] *forma* omitted in MS. [5] *cujus de Osney* MS. [6] No name, but a cross or letter *x*, after *Johanni* ib.

254.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

When men of distinguished abilities and character are promoted to positions of honour we rejoice, and, if they have been educated among us, our joy is naturally greater. This is so in your case; who, having been a son of the University, have now become a father. We know, from those who have witnessed it, the great grief you feel on account of the decay of learning, and especially of grammar, in this 'age of iron'; and that you have long considered how the evil may be remedied. That one in your exalted place should be interested in this matter is a thing most grateful to us; and, though it be but little, what we may do to help will be most readily done.

Quinto decimo die Decembris, sigillata erat littera domino episcopo Lincolniensi, sub forma que sequitur. **1466.**

Cum egregios homines clarosque, reverendissime pater, peramplis potiri honoribus contuemur, non parum nobis jocunditatis afferre solet, tum vero vel maxime non injuria, si quando eorum quempiam in apice merito positum videmus, quos nostra quidem Universitas peperit, fovit, educavit; quod in te ante ceteros jucundissime conspicimus. Nam ex olim filio, mira Dei providencia, gratissimus nobis pater efficeris; non modo te patrem verum eciam et gratissimum patrem fateri non ambigimus. Quantum tibi hac nostra, ut aiunt, **Fol. 119 a.** etate ferrea studii jactura dolori fuerit, ab iis, qui te hoc damnum sepe plangentem conspexere, satis accepimus; maxime vero quod grammatica, quam reliquarum scienciarum radicem esse constat, tanquam in exilio posita regno e nostro abierit, deflere solebas. Huic tam gravi periculo remedium sepe et multum, uti nuper didicimus, ferre, tecum ipse cogitasti. Merito quippe jocundari debemus, quod ea quidem res, que principibus habetur neglectui, a tanti patris corde non abcesserit. Hoc utique tam pium tam sanctumque propositum, quod a Deo seminatum certissime scimus, eo quidem juvante amplissimos parere fructus indubie expectamus. Si quid igitur tibi, optime pater, quod certe parum existimamus[1], prodesse arbitraris, paratissimos habes. Id demum, quod in nostra existit potestate, pollicemur; Deum nos pro tui paternitate perpetuo[2] exoraturos. Vale.

[1] *existimus* MS. [2] *perpeti* ib.

255.

To Master T. Grauntt.

We have placed the delightful book you have given us in our Library for the general use, and for the perpetual remembrance of your name; and, lest we be thought ungrateful, desire to offer our sincere thanks. Nothing is so agreeable to our mother the University as to find the sons she has nursed remembering her with gratitude, when they have grown up.

1466. Vicesimo octavo Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo[1] sexto, sigillata erat littera magistro T. Grauntt, sub forma sequente.

CANCELLARIUS Universitatis Oxoniensis cetus unanimisque magistrorum regencium in eadem magistro T. Grauntt salutem et nostrarum oracionum continua suffragia. Dedisti equidem nobis, carissime magister, que nostra est summa voluptas, suavissimum librum, quem in nostre Universitatis libraria, uti animus tibi fuerat, ad communem studencium utilitatem, ac tui presertim sine fine memoriam, locari fecimus; idque his nostris litteris tibi increbescere optamus. Sed ne, ipsius beneficii tanquam immemores, omni vituperio digni censeamur, complures tibi gracias agere equum esse profitemur; multoque inde apud nos nostrumque posteros benemerito potieris. Nam mater Universitas id officii in fovendis filiis contentissimum habet, cum et ipsi, jam integram etatem nacti, sue parentis jam olim cure, laboris, et oneris admodum memores fuerint, eamque diviciis ac honore et augere et extollere student: quod dum in te id modo accuratius advertere contuemur, nos tibi benevolos et amicissimos futuros perpetuis temporibus non dubium habes. Vale.

Acquittance of Master William Orel, proctor.

1470. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Georgium Nevyl, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Brew et Thomam Beston, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores cetumque unanimem regencium in eadem, remisisse, relaxasse et omnino pro nobis et successoribus nostris in perpetuum quietum clamasse Willelmo Orel, clerico, quondam dicte Universitatis procuratori, omnimodas acciones reales ac personales, quas versus ipsum habuimus, habemus, seu quovismodo habere poterimus in futurum, racione officii predicti execucionis, a principio mundi usque ad datum presentium. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum nostrum apposuimus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum decimo, undecimo die Maii.*

[1] See p. 356.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

MEMORANDUM, quod quinto die Decembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo, sigillata erat acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, pro pensione sedecim solidorum debita Universitati in festo S. Nicholai; sub forma communi, cum tali dato, *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno inchoacionis regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum tricesimo nono, et re-adeptionis sue regie potestatis anno primo.* 1470.

256.

To the Archbishop of York (G. Nevyl). Fol. 119 b.

On every occasion you have been more ready to help than we to invoke your aid. But never was our need of your advice and assistance more urgent than at this time; firstly, to obtain the full effect of the privileges which we owe to your interest in our affairs; secondly, to enforce payment of a donation to our new school by the vicar of Abingdon; and, thirdly, to compose the ancient feud between the doctors of medicine and civil law; by which the peace of the University has been disturbed, and murder only by the mercy of God avoided.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Georgio, Dei gracia Eboracensi Archiepiscopo, suo patrono protectorique singularissimo congregacionis Universitatis Oxonie regencium unanimis cetus, omni cum reverencia tante debita dominacioni, salutem plurimam dicit. Quoniam tuam dominationem, benignissime domine, pro nobis semper omni in re ad agendum quam nos ad poscendum paratiorem fuisse certissimis sepenumero didicimus indiciis, in teque solo, nostras res solide respiciente curanteque, spes omnis sita est nostra; hinc est quod nos, hac nostra in necessitate, ad tuum audacius currimus refugium. Quamquam ante in compluribus tuo nobis consilio auxilioque peropus est, nunc tamen egregie preter cetera, in tribus tuam opem nobis nuspiam denegatam humillime petimus ac oramus: Primum enim, ut nostra privilegia, que tuam per operam concessa, teque jubente conscripta sunt, tua summa prudentia—cum id quo pacto fieri debeat tibi quam nobis notum magis est—jam prorsus perficiantur optamus. Secundo autem, quod, tua dominatione mediante, nobis pecunie per S. Helene de Abyndone vicarium ad novarum scolarum fabricam nuper donate, eidemque per prefate ville Abbatem, pro quadam, ut inquit, pensione annua a retro existente, debite, citius persolvantur. Tercio vero, si tue sagacitati gratum erit, precamur, inter medicinarum jurisque civilis facultatum doctores illi dissentioni 1470.

antique,—ex qua quidem, nisi superi prohibuissent, non modo totius Universitatis turbatio, verum etiam homicidium quam nefandissimum nuper fuisset, ut putatur, secutum, ne mali hujusce quidquam inde posthac obtingat,—tu, qui solus id potes, finem impone. At si otium tibi erit, ut post parliamentum ad nos, tui qui sumus semperque erimus, venias, nos proculdubio Universitatemque omnem maximo afficies gaudio. Verum ne nostrarum literarum prolixitas nimia tue dominationi tedio onerique sit, iis in negociis, quo sese modo res habet omnis, is venerabilis magister, presentium lator qui est, te faciet certiorem. Vale, ac vive feliciter, nostra salus unica totiusque ecclesie solatium singulare. *Scriptum raptim Oxonie in nostra congregationis domo, duodecimo Kalendas Junii.* Tue dominationis oratores humillimi Universitatis, cujus tu caput es, regentes.

257.

To Master Richard Mey.

Our delay in acknowledging your beneficence has not proceeded from ingratitude, but from a desire to express our thanks in person. Your liberality to us is known to all the world, and is the greater in our eyes because scarcely have any others been found to take pity upon the poverty of the University; so that, but for your generosity, our new school of theology could not have been built. It is not often that liberality increases, as it does in you, with increasing years; and, though we are unable to thank you as we should, our prayers for your welfare will be most earnest to Him, who suffers no good work to pass unrewarded.

1470. PEREGREGIO viro sibique gratissimo, magistro Ricardo Mey, artium magistro, Universitatis Oxonie Cancellarius ejusdemque regentium unanimis cetus, cum creberrima gratiarum actione, salutem plurimam dicit. Etsi nostras per litteras, amicissime pater, gratitudini tue gratias agere hucusque distulimus, non eo tamen nos tuorum immemores beneficiorum fuisse puta, sed quod tuam nobis peroptatam presentiam, ubi tibi coram singuli regratiari possemus, jam diu operti sumus. Tua enim in nos beneficia ita recentia ita magnaque sunt, ut ea nostrum latere queant[1] neminem. Idque adeo ea apud nos clariora reddit, quod preter te, qui nostre Universitatis pauperiem respiciat, vix quispiam reperitur. Nam nisi tua caritativa liberalitas caritasque liberalis in nostras theologie scolas manus porrexisset adjutrices, illud fortassis edificium frustra inchoatum fuisset. Unde tibi

[1] *queat* MS.

proculdubio quam plurimum gratulamur, quod in te dictum illud Terentianum '*quod nimium ad rem in senecta attenti sumus*' nihil potest, cum tibi liberalitatem una cum senectute quotidie accrevisse res ipsa indicat evidenter. At quoniam tuis in nos quam gratissimis muneribus, ut par est, gratiam referre nequimus, ipsum Dominum, nullum qui bonum irremuneratum sinit, tua pro salute nos sedulo precaturos certissime pollicemur. Tuas autem reverentias minime latere velimus, pro eis pecuniis, quas nobis liberalissime nuper donaveras, nanciscendis operam non parvam dedisse, impigreque posthac daturos. Vale, ac vive feliciter, pater amantissime. *Scriptum raptim Oxonie, pridie nonas Julii.* Tue gratitudinis in amore Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius ac regentes.

Letter testimonial for Master William Wykwyk. Fol. 120 a.

1469. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorumque regentium in eadem unanimis cetus salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quanquam inter cetera humanitatis officia Christiane professionis unumquemque veritati equum est testimonium perhibere; nobis tamen, qui scientie ac veritatis studia profitemur, modo quodam singulari magis debitum est viros quosque, cum opus erit, veraci testimonio juvare. Stoicis enim placere accepimus, que in terris gignuntur, ad usum hominum creari omnia, homines autem causa hominum esse generatos, ut ipsi inter se alius alii prodesse possit. Hec igitur atque hujusmodi ante nostre considerationis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Willelmus Wykwyk, nostre Universitatis predicte artium magister, vir quidem conversacione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus gradum honorifice provectus est. Exinde vero regentiam, ac quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut autem hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, nono Kalendas Novembris anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo sexagesimo nono*[1].

Letter testimonial for Master John Hedon.

1470. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore.

[1] See p. 382.

Quamquam inter cetera humanitatis officia Christiane professionis unumquemque veritati equum est testimonium perhibere; nobis tamen, qui sciencie ac veritatis studia profitemur, modo quodam singulari magis debitum est viros quosque, cum opus erit, veritatis testimonio juvare. Stoicis enim placere accepimus, que in terris gignuntur ad usum hominum creari omnia, homines autem causa hominum esse generatos, ut ipsi inter se alius alii prodesse possit. Hec igitur atque hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Johannes Hedon, in juris canonici facultate doctor, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod apud nos in eadem facultate ad magistratus apicem honorifice provectus est. Qua de re, ut hujus testificacionis gracia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, presentes litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, pridie Kalendas Apriles, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1471. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyl, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Nicholaum Good et Ricardum Davys, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in completam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quintodecimo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum undecimo.*

Acquittance of the Warden and Fellows of All Souls College.

1471. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Georgium Nevyl, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Nicholaum Good et Ricardum Davys, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de custode et sociis Collegii animarum in Oxonia, viginti quatuor solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, in solutionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati, pro aula vocata 'Tenchwykyn' et aula vocata 'Cathal,' per prefatos custodem et socios debite: De quibus quidem viginti quatuor solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque custodem ac socios inde acquietamus per pre-

sentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto decimo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum undecimo.*

258.

To Masters Thomas Bonifaunt and William Dudley. **Fol. 120 b.**

That you, who are such good friends to us, have so high a place in the King's favour naturally gives us very great pleasure. While, therefore, we thank you for your steady advocacy of our interests hitherto, we entreat you, if unfavourable statements are made to the King respecting the University, that you will contradict them; and inform us if it should seem desirable that we should write to his majesty. We believe we have done nothing to deserve his anger, and can fearlessly assert that, in all the recent troubles of the realm, the tranquillity of the University was never greater; and we do not know a single instance of a scholar taking arms for either side. As we have been so we shall continue to be, loyal subjects; nor indeed are we insensible of the value of the King's favour, and hope that you will so use your influence for us, that our mother the University may be proud of having produced such sons.

CLARISSIMIS ac eruditissimis viris, magistro Thome Bonifaunt et 1470.
domino Willelmo Dudley[1], Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis regentiumque ejusdem unanimis cetus, salutem plurimam dicunt. Permagno non injuria, gravissimi litteratissimique viri, afficimur gaudio, quod vos, nostri quam amantissimos, regie majestati tam caros apudque eam tantum vestram valere discretionem atque prudentiam intelligimus. Ea enim antehac in almam matrem nostram caritate pietateque vos novimus fuisse, ut pro ejus commodo, honore, ac fama percelebri integerrime conservanda, semper, cum opus foret, accuratam operam atque diligentiam dedistis attentissimam. Unde vobis quam plurimas ac habemus et agimus gratias; vestrisque in nos benevolenciis freti, humanitates vestras intimius rogamus, si quidpiam regie celsitudini nostram contra Universitatem hactenus dictum est, dictumve iri dehinc obtinget, vos ipsius advocati patronique existite; ad ipsumque serenissimum invictissimumque principem nostrum si litteras dare nobis opus erit, nos facere dignemini certiores. Credimus quippe nos nihil jam commeruisse egre quod ferri debeat dignum. Id autem unum audacter dixerimus; in tam multa hujus regni turba apud nos tanta opinamur profecto tranquillitas antea nunquam visa est; nam hoc omni in tempore Universitatis nostre scolarium utramvis in partem insurrexisse

[1] See note, p. 402.

cognoscimus neminem. Nos igitur hucusque fuisse, et posthac futuros, ut esse debemus: nec enim nos fugit quantis beneficiis, nostra non modo confirmando verum etiam ampliando privilegia, ab illustrissimo rege nostro munificentissime sumus donati. Illius observantissimos scitote oratores. Vestrasque humanitates iterum atque iterum quesumus ac oramus, vestra pro matre hac in re aliisque, in quibus presentium lator vos certificabit, agite sedulo, ut ea vos tantos tamque gratissimos sibi filios sese peperisse, necnon ac educasse, quam plurimum gaudeat. Et valete, ac vivite feliciter, doctissimi atque amicissimi viri. *Scriptum raptim Oxonie, septimo Idus Maii.*

Hec precedens epistola erat missa ad prefatos viros die prenotato, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo. Unanimis magistrorum regentium cetus Universitatis Oxoniensis.

Testimonial letter for Master William Kyng.

1470. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quamquam inter cetera humanitatis officia Christiane professionis unumquemque veritati equum est testimonium perhibere; nobis tamen, qui scientie ac veritatis studia profitemur, modo quodam singulari magis debitum est viros quosque, cum opus erit, veritatis testimonio juvare. Stoicis enim placere accepimus, que in terris gignuntur ad usum hominum creari omnia; homines autem causa hominum esse generatos, ut ipsi inter se alius alii prodesse possit. Hec igitur atque hujusmodi ante nostre considerationis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Willelmus Kyng, artium facultatis magister, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod apud nos in eadem facultate ad magistratus apicem honorifice provectus est. Qua de re, ut hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, presentes litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, septimodecimo Kalendas Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo.*

Testimonial letter for Master Henry Sutton.

1470. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia, nobis, qui scientie et virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate ac scientia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero, dum

studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac scientie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Henricus Sutton, nostre Universitatis predicte arcium magister, vir quidem conversacione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit. Exinde vero regenciam, et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Data in nostra congregationis domo, tertio nonas Quintiles, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo.*

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Tenterden.

SEXTO Idus Februarias anno predicto, sigillate sunt littere testimoniales magistri Thome Tenterden, sub forma immediate precedente, mutato nomine et die. 1470.

259.

He sequentes bine littere misse sunt anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo. **Fol. 121 a.**

To the Archbishop of York.

Though we have often been troublesome to you before, yet, being assured of your continued interest in our welfare, we earnestly beg you to obtain for us possession of the books bequeathed to us by the late Earl of Worcester. They are reputed to be worth no less than five hundred marks; and, unless it be by your aid, we do not see how we can hope to receive them. Delay in these cases is notoriously dangerous, we beg therefore that the books may be immediately placed in the hands of the bearer of this letter.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Georgio, Dei gratia Eboracensi Archiepiscopo, suo protectori patronoque singularissimo Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regentium unanimis cetus, omni cum reverentia atque, uti sese ad hoc quam maxime devinctum cognoscit, creberrimis cum gratiarum actionibus, salutem plurimam dicit. Quanquam tibi, benignissime domine, antehac oneri solicitudinique sepenumero fuimus, dum tamen tuam in nos benevolentiam tantam esse, quantam hucusque experti sumus, cognoscemus, 1470.

tantisper, quotiens nos magna quevis urgebit necessitas, tuum ad refugium decurrere, tueque dominacionis auxilium consiliumque nunquam desistemus expetere. Quo enim animo tua dominatio in nos fuerit, non modo dicta quam amantissima, cum jam nuper atque alias apud nos eras, verum etiam facta tua crebrius liberalissime iterata indicio quam evidentissime fuerunt. Tue igitur dominationis amplissima in nos benevolentia nostramque in rempublicam ardentissima caritate ac consueta pietate freti, tuam majorem in modum rogamus dominationem, quatenus libros illos, quibus a Wigornie comite nuperius defuncto alma mater nostra erat donata, nobis obtinere tua summa dignetur prudentia. Sunt quidem magni, ut aiunt, precii, ad valorem quingentarum ferme marcarum. Quam ob rem circa eorum adeptionem major est profecto opera diligentiaque accuratior adhibenda. Nisi tua tamen dominatio manus hac in re extendet adjutrices, non facile dictu est quo pacto prefatos libros nancisci queamus. Faciat igitur tua dominatio, nos omnes iterum atque iterum quesumus ac oramus, si modo id quovis fieri potest, eos presentium latori, dicte qui Universitatis procurator est, propediem tradi. Nam ejusmodi in rebus, vulgo quod dici solet, in mora periculum sepius obtingit. De reliquis autem rebus, in quibus tue dominacionis opem expetimus, ipse idem presentium lator te, tue si gratum erit dominationi, faciet certiorem. Et optime semper valeat tua nobis exoptatissima dominatio, nostrum presidium singularissimum tociusque ecclesie solacium speciale. *Scriptum raptim Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, nonis Novembribus.* Tue dominationis obsequentissimus Oxoniensium regentium cetus.

260.

To the Bishop of Norwich.

Your general reputation for considering the poor and needy, testified by your numerous exhibitions for maintaining poor scholars, and by the extensive and beautiful buildings erected by you both here and at Norwich, makes us bold to ask your help in a very great difficulty. The new school of theology still remains unfinished, and unless your generous hand comes to our assistance, we are at a loss to think how it can ever be completed. Moreover the late Earl of Worcester bequeathed to us a large number of books; but, until a new library is provided, we have no proper place for them. If, in answer to our most urgent request, you will undertake to supply these wants, not only will you secure for your name an everlasting remembrance, but here in Oxford we shall ever cherish the memory of your liberality and charity.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Waltero, Norwicensi episcopo, Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regentium unanimis cetus, omni cum reverentia tante debita paternitati, salutem plurimam dicit. Quoniam tuam in omnes liberalitatem ac egregie in pauperes indigentesque ardentissimam caritatem pietatemque intelleximus, id adeo nos facit audaciores ut tuum ad auxilium permagna jam necessitate constituti fugere conaremur. Tuam enim ingentem munificenciam, non modo scolarium quam multorum diuturna exhibitio, verum[1] etiam permaxima atque preclarissima tam Norwici quam Oxonie edificia, tuam per dominationem nuperius perfectissime consummata, luce reddunt clariorem. Amplissima igitur tua, in singulos opem tuam expetentes, caritate freti, tuam piissimam dominationem petimus ac rogamus, quatinus ad nos etiam, nostramque ad rempublicam pauperie confectam, ipsas manus tuas, ad hujusmodi pietatis opera plurimum ante consuetas, digneris porrigere, novarum sacre theologie scolarum edificio, que quidem longa jam tempora, quod tuam non fugit discretionem, imperfecte steterunt, finem imponendo. Nam nisi tue dominationis iis succurrat paratissima liberalitas, quando earum quamdiu expectatam videbimus consummationem nos prorsus latet. Sumus quippe modo a Wigornie comite nuper defuncto pluribus libris donati, ad quos profecto capiendos, priusquam nova fiat libraria, locum aptum non habemus. Ut igitur tua dominatio ipsum opus in se recipiat, iterum atque iterum majorem in modum quesumus ac oramus. Quod si perficias, tuam percelebrem famam nullum posthac seculum conticiscet. Tue preterea tante tamque in almam matrem nostram liberalissime gratitudinis ac ferventissime caritatis memoriam apud nos nulla unquam delebit oblivio. Et optime semper valeat tua multo omnium benignissima dominatio, magnificentissime domine nosterque amantissime in Christo pater. *Scriptum raptim Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, nonis ipsis Novembribus.* Tue dominationis obsequentissimus Oxonie regentium cetus unanimis.

1470.

Fol. 121 b.

261.

To the King (Henry VI).

When we heard that you had recovered the throne, we felt glad that you had been restored, as it was just that you should be, to your former dignity; and at the same time we rejoiced, because in you we have once more a monarch who is a true lover and defender of the Church and of this University. The happy circumstances too of your restitution, without

[1] *verum eciam* repeated in MS.

bloodshed and beyond all human expectation, are undoubtedly the work of the divine hand. Even David, the chosen of God, obtained not his throne without a great sacrifice of human life, and Solomon could reign in peace only by the murder of his brother. We thank God, therefore, who has thus given us calm and peace again after the whirlwind of strife; and in the future years of tranquillity we now hope to enjoy, we humbly pray that you will continue to show us the same favour as heretofore.

1470. ILLUSTRISSIMO ac Christianissimo principi Henrico, Dei gratia Anglie et Francie regi invictissimo, sui humillimi ac obsequentissimi oratores, Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regentium unanimis cetus, omni cum subjectione tante tamque excellentissime debita celsitudini, salutem plurimam dicunt. Cum dudum tuam regiam potestatem, serenissime princeps, te renactum intelleximus, non modo tue gratulabamur celsitudini, quod pristinum ad statum summamque dignitatem, ut dignum fuerat, es permaximo cum honore regressus; verum quod nobis regem tam magnificentissimum, tamque nostre totiusque ecclesie amantissimum, ac ecclesiasticarum libertatum non solum defensorem sed etiam auctorem multo omnium amplissimum, redditum atque restitutum haberemus; sumus quoque quamplurimum gavisi. Ast id adeo majori nos afficit letitia quod preter spem ultraque omnem humanam estimationem, summa, quod profecto credendum est, divina providentia, regiam ipsam majestatem, omni bello omnique populi tui clade prorsus semota, reädeptus es. Nam tale antehac tamque preclarum ac felix facinus ne unquam quidem audivimus obtigisse. Ipse enim regius propheta David, quem a Deo electum sacro ex eloquio accepimus, sine maxima hominum cede sineque regii sanguinis effusione regnum divinitus sibi provisum obtinere non potuit. Ipsum preterea regem pacificum Dominoque amabilem, sapientissimum loquimur Salomonem, haud secus quam fraterna nece regni sui tranquillitate potitum sacra nos edocet scriptura. Unde ipsi misericordissimo Domino, a quo hec ceteraque cuncta procedere bona dignoscuntur, infinitas ac habemus ac agimus gratias, tuum qui regnum, tanta quiete tantaque reipublice salute, ex tanto tamque ingenti turbine ac dissensione tibi quam misericorditer reddidit ac pacavit: cujus tranquillum stabilimentum multa jam tempora duraturum firmius speramus, idque exoptamus permaxime. Tua igitur singularissima gratia, quam almam in Universitatem matrem nostram pre victoriosissimis ac preclarissimis progenitoribus tuis, hujus nobilissimi regni monarchis inclitissimis, actenus semper benignissime magnificentissimeque ostendisti, freti, tuam celsitudinem iterum atque iterum majorem in modum quesumus et oramus humillime, quatinus

eodem te gratiosissimo animo in nos nostramque almam matrem, quo hucusque fueris, semper posthac fore sentiamus. Nos vero omnes—ita quidem esse debemus—tue celsitudinis perpetuos pollicemur observantissimos oratores. Et optime valeat, longaque secula felicissime vivat, tua majestas regia, serenissime ac gratiosissime princeps. *Raptim ex tue Universitatis Oxoniensis congregationis domo, undevicesimo Kalendas Januarias.* Tui humillimi ac sempiterni oratores, Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regentium unanimis cetus.

Caution deposited in the Chest of 'Four Keys,' as security for prosecuting an appeal.

SEXTODECIMO die Januarii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo, imposita est in cistam quatuor clavium caucio magistri Ricardi Estmond, pro appellacione[1] ab eo facta prosequenda, duo solidi. 1470.

EODEM die imposita est caucio magistri Willelmi Axham, de appellacione prosequenda, tres solidi quatuor denarii.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

QUINTO die Aprilis sigillate sunt communi sigillo Universitatis due acquietancie pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, et una acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Osney, secundum formam prius scriptam. 1471.

TERCIO die Decembris sigillata est acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, pro sedecim solidis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo primo[2]. 1471.

Another deposit of caution for prosecution of an appeal.

TERCIO decimo die Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo primo, imposita est in cistam quatuor clavium cautio domini Humfridi Hawardyn, pro appellacione per eum facta prosequenda, duo solidi. 1471.

262.

To the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Lord Chancellor. Fol. 122 a.

Though affairs of state, wherein your wise conduct is a matter of public notoriety, have made large demands upon your time and attention; you cannot, we are sure, have forgotten the University, our mother,

[1] *appallatione* MS. [2] See pp. 357 to 363.

whom, while you were with us, you so ably served with both pen and tongue; nor have you failed, no doubt, to defend her fair fame when assailed by detractors. Since, then, your influence with the King is great, we have the less fear of our enemies; relying on your good offices, if the King should be prejudiced against us by malevolent tongues, to disabuse his mind, restore his good-will towards us, and defend our interests.

1471. REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, Domino Roberto, Wellensi et Bathoniensi episcopo, regni Anglie Cancellario, suoque domino singularissimo Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regencium unanimis cetus, summa cum reverencia, salutem plurimam dicit. Quamquam tua prudencia, prestantissime domine, circa totius regni rempublicam jam diu observata est, permagnam operam summamque diligenciam in ipsius tuicione ac regimine ponendo; nunquam tamen, ut credimus, alma mater nostra Oxonia, in quam, cum apud nos olim eras, tuam pietatem magnitudine crebritateque officiorum tam calamo quam lingua notissimam effecisti, eo oblivionis apud tuam paternitatem venire potuit, quin interea de ea sepenumero cogitares; ac, si quorumvis ipsam mordacibus verbis vituperio datam accepisti, eorum oblatrantia confutares ora; pro illiusque fama integerrime conservanda sermonem jucundissime faceres. Unde, cum tuam gravitatem apud regiam celsitudinem plurimum jam valere intelligimus, atque tuam dominationem amantissimam nobis paratissimam speramus, invidorum, si qui sunt, maledice lingue nobis minori erunt formidini. Tua igitur humanitate innataque in nos nostramque almam matrem caritate freti, tuam prudentissimam dominationem majorem in modum quesumus ac oramus, quatinus, si illustrissimum principem regem nostrum nobis, quod superi prohibeant, succensere presensisses[1], nos in ejus graciam reducere nitaris; nec, cum id optime et scis et potes, donec perficies desistas. Si quid preterea negocii nostra pro republica apud celsitudinem regiam posthac obtinget, noster specialissimus digneris esse patronus. Nos vero illius fidelissimos ac perpetuos oratores semper futuros pollicemur; tuaque dominatio nobis servitoribus utetur obsequentissimis. Et optime valeat longaque secula felicissime vivat tua nobis singularissima dominatio. *Raptim ex nostre congregacionis domo Oxonie, quarto Kalendas Quintiles.*

[1] *presentisses* MS.

263.

To the King (Edward IV).

Your former victories, though we heard of them with great pleasure, did not give us the joy we feel on account of that you have recently obtained; for by it the civil war, which has well-nigh destroyed the kingdom, has been brought to an end, and a king at once most wise and successful restored, as by a miracle, to his throne. Henceforth, under your government we need fear no enemy, and can pass our lives in peace. We thank God, therefore, the giver of this and all other good gifts, that he has subdued your enemies under you and delivered you from such great perils; and, relying upon the benevolence you showed us in the past, we humbly beseech you to continue the same gracious favour in future.

ILLUSTRISSIMO ac Christianissimo principi Edwardo, Dei gracia 1471.
Anglie et Francie regi victoriosissimo, sui humillimi obsequentissimique oratores, Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regentium ac non-regentium unanimis cetus, omni cum subjeccione tante tamque excellentissime debita celsitudini, salutem plurimam dicunt. Tametsi tuas priores victorias preclarissimas, invictissime princeps, nobis, ut quam dignissime fuerant, pergratas extitisse certum est; he tamen, quas tua nuper nacta est celsitudo, nos longe majori expleverunt gaudio: tum quod per eas ipsi intestino civilique bello—quod quidem hoc ferme pessumdedit regnum—finem jam perfectum posueris, tum etiam quod eisdem te regem quam sapientissimum ac multo omnium victoriosissimum regno tuo tam graciose et, ut sic loquamur, tanto miraculo redditum ac restitutum habemus. Nam dehinc, quamdiu nos legii tui tua majestate regia utemur gubernatrice, nulli unquam hostes nobis, quod firmius speramus, formidini quovis pacto futuri sunt; sed tuo sub gratiosissimo regimine multa nos tempora tranquillam ac felicem agemus vitam. Unde ipsi misericordissimo Domino, a quo hec ceteraque cuncta procedere bona dinoscuntur, et habemus et agimus gracias infinitas; tuam qui celsitudinem a tot tantisque periculis liberavit, inimicos tuis manibus subdidit, omnibusque tuis rebus gloriosissime gestis auxilio singularissimo fuit. Tua igitur abundantissima gracia, quam almam in Universitatem nostram hactenus benignissime magnificentissimeque ostendisti, freti, tuam celsitudinem iterum atque iterum quesumus ac oramus humillime, quatinus eodem graciosissimo animo in nos nostramque almam matrem, quo hucusque fueris, nunquam posthac fore desinas. Nos vero omnes tue celsitudinis, ut esse profecto debitum est, futuros pollicemur perpetuos observantissimos oratores. Et optime semper valeat, longaque secula

felicissime vivat tua majestas regia, serenissime ac graciosissime princeps. *Ex Universitatis Oxoniensis congregationis domo, quarto Kalendas Quintiles.*

264.

Fol. 122 b. **To the King (Edward IV).**

When your very kind and acceptable letter was read in congregation, we were all very glad to find that the matter wherein you required our obedience was so easy to accomplish; for had you demanded a very hard thing, we should have incurred the charge of disobedience and ingratitude, if we had not performed it. We thank you for the confirmation of our ancient privileges and your promise of future enlargement of them; and pray you to receive with favour the bearer of this letter and the petition thereof.

1471. SERENISSIMO ac metuendissimo principi Edwardo, Dei gratia Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo, sui humillimi atque perpetui oratores obsequentissimique subjecti, Universitatis Oxoniensis Commissarius et procuratores magistrorumque regentium unanimis cetus, omni cum subjeccione tante tamque excellentissime debita majestati, sese humillime faciunt recommissos. Cum tuas nobis suavissimas ac perjucundas litteras, inclitissime princeps, quas tua ad nos jamdudum mittere dignata est celsitudo, nostra in congregacione recitatas haberemus, quam plurimum sumus gavisi, quod re tam facili morem gerere possemus tue graciosissime voluntati. Nam si rem pergrandem factuque durissimam tua gratia jussisset, nisi ad eam obeundam essemus paratissimi, nos officii nostri immemores ingratosque posset non injuria dicere. Non enim nos fugit quantis a tua munificencia quamque ingentibus alma mater nostra donata est beneficiis, nonmodo ea omnia privilegia, que eidem tui illustrissimi progenitores concesserunt, graciosissime confirmando, verum etiam ad ipsa, si opus erit, amplificanda tuam promptissimam pollicendo graciam. Unde tue serenitati, ut proculdubio habemus, permaximas agimus gracias, tuamque majestatem iterum atque iterum majorem in modum quesumus ac oramus humillime omnes, quatenus eam venerabilis doctor, quo litterarum presentium latore utimur, hac in re, quam modo nostra pro republica petiturus rogaturusque est, exorabilem inveniat. Speramus quidem id, quod antea tue Universitati matri nostre ultro donarat tua magnificentissima gracia, ne ullo jam pacto posse esse negatum. Optime semper valeat, longaque secula felicissime vivat tua serenissima majestas, victoriosissime princeps. *Ex tue Universitatis Oxoniensis congregationis domo, Idibus ipsis Octobris.*

265.

To Master Thomas Graunt, precentor of S. Paul's, London.

Your filial affection for this University is such that you place our interests and honour before everything, and the monument in our library of this your tender regard is no small comfort to us. Had others been as mindful of her as we have found you, she would not be lying in the poverty we now see, but would be prosperous and strong. When you were proctor here you discharged your duties with prudence and diligence, and since you left us, no pressure of other business has made you neglect our interests. Accept our grateful thanks for your goodness and remain, we entreat you, in the same mind.

LITTERATISSIMO ac gravissimo viro, magistro Thome Graunt, ecclesie 1471.
S. Pauli Londoniis quam egregio precentori, Universitatis Oxoniensis magistrorum regencium unanimis cetus, cum creberrimis graciarum accionibus, quam plurimam salutem. Quoniam tuam caritatem pietatemque, amantissime pater, almam in matrem nostram Oxoniam semper tantam fuisse experti sumus, ut ipsius commodo ac honore nihil optabilius esset, quotiens nostre reipublice pauperiem memoria repetimus, tuus ille ferventissimus amor, in cujus monimentum ac pignus nostra in bibliotheca preclarissimum munus tuum perpetuo residere fecisti, haud parum nos consolatur. Si enim ceteri matris nostre filii illius tam memores, ut te intelligimus, extitissent, nostra respublica, quam modo paupertate atque penuria affectam humili jacentem loco cernimus, satis prospera satisque pollens videretur. Nam tu, quem olim, cum apud nos eras, ipsius procuratorem diligentissimum prudentissimumque fuisse certissimum est, ne unquam quidem postea animum inducere potuisti, licet absens, licet quam pluribus aliis negociis impeditus fueris, quin pro ea accuratissime procurare ac agere conareris. Unde tue paternitati, ut profecto[1] habemus, quam maximas agimus gratias: utque posthac eadem benevolencia eodemque amantissimo animo nostram in Universitatem esse perseveres, te iterum atque iterum majorem in modum quesumus ac oramus. Nos vero tui, ut certe debemus, perpetui erimus oratores. Et optime semper valeat, feliciterque vivat tua nobis perjucunda paternitas. *Raptim Oxonie, ex nostre congregationis domo, sextodecimo Kalendas Januarias.*

[1] *profecte* MS.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1471. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos Georgium Nevyl, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Nicholaum Good et Ricardum Davys, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, in completam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes, sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, quartodecimo die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum duodecimo*[1].

Hec dicta acquietancia erat sigillata die et anno supradictis.

Letter testimonial for Master William Rawlyns.

Fol. 123 a. 1471. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui sciencie ac virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate ac sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Willelmus Rawlyns, nostre Universitatis predicte artium magister, vir quidem conversatione honesta, dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit; exinde vero regentiam, ac quecumque ad tanti gradus solemnitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, quartodecimo Kalendas Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo primo.*

Letter testimonial for Master William More.

1471. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore.

[1] This should be *undecimo*, apparently; for the proctors here named are those of the year 1471.

Inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui sciencie ac virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate ac sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero dum studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec ac hujusmodi ante nostre considerationis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Willelmus More, nostre Universitatis predicte artium magister, vir quidem conversatione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit; exinde vero regentiam, ac quecunque ad tanti gradus solemnitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, quartodecimo Kalendas Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo primo.*

Citation of the Abbot of Eynsham.

You are hereby summoned to appear within twenty days after service of this citation at S. Mary's Church, and account for the arrears of the annual pension, due from you and unjustly withheld[1].

CANCELLARIUS Universitatis Oxoniensis, necnon ejusdem procuratores cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium, Abbati de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxonie, salutem. Tenore presentium te citamus, primo, secundo, et tertio ac peremptorie, mandamusque quod coram nobis personaliter compareas, in nostre congregationis domo in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis dicte Universitatis, infra viginti dies post citationem tibi in hac parte factam, responsurus ac satisfacturus pro quibusdam annuis pensionibus prefate Universitati debitis, ac per te injuste retentis. Ad quod quidem faciendum juramenti vinculo te noveris esse astrictum. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, nostro sub communi sigillo, undecimo die Maii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo secundo.* 1472.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos Thomam Chaundelere Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Major ac Johannem Acheley, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte 1472.

[1] These arrears seem to have been paid the following year. Cf. pp. 403–5.

Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, quintodecimo die Januarii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum duodecimo.*

266.

Fol. 123 b.

To the King (Edward IV).

Your previous letters have been received by us with the greatest pleasure and respect, but this last more so than all before. We shall keep it as a precious treasure among our muniments, and as a proof not only of your grace and favour to the clerks of Oxford, and to Churchmen generally—which is well known—but also of your intention to be our protector in all dangers. We do not find that any of your predecessors have promised so much. Hitherto we have needed the intervention of a bishop, a duke, or other exalted person to bring our needs before the King. Henceforth we shall be able to pursue our studies in security fearing no violation of our privileges. As you have permitted us to elect our Chancellor we have chosen Master Chaundeler, your Chaplain: and we believe the choice will be agreeable to you, and that it has been directed by the Spirit of God.

1472. VICTORIOSISSIMO ac metuendissimo principi Edwardo, Dei gracia Anglie et Francie regi illustrissimo, humillimi sui ac perpetui oratores obsequentissimique subjecti, Universitatis Oxoniensis regencium cetus unanimis, omni cum subjeccione tante tamque excellentissime debita majestati, sese faciunt recommissos. Quanquam reverendissimas omnes tuas litteras antehac ad nos transmissas, serenissime princeps, recolendas, suaves, plurimumque pergratas censuimus, ille tamen, quas jamdudum benignissima gracia tua nobis mittere dignata est, maxime nobis jucunditati atque gaudio fuerunt. Cum has per litteras, que profecto tanquam preciosissimus thesaurus inter munimenta ac privilegia nostra, in testimonium tui in nos precipui favoris ac gracie, perpetuo sunt conservande, te non modo nostri cleri Oxoniensis graciosissimum dominum, uti omnium dignosceris ecclesiasticorum, verum etiam protectorem nostrum singularissimum; sub cujus alarum defensionem, quociens opus fuerit, concurrere valeamus, quod utique nobis tuorum inclitissimorum progenitorum scripsisse aut concessisse invenimus neminem, posthac futurum gratiose pollicitus es. Aliquando enim pontificis sive ducis, alteriusve cujuspiam potentis viri auxilio, qui nostras regie celsitudini necessitudines referret, causasque ageret

magnopere indigentes, nunc tua proteccione freti, nichil nobis damni, nichil nostre matri tue Universitati Oxoniensi nocumenti, nichil privilegiis ac libertatibus nostris timentes derogacionis, futuris semper temporibus, ut speramus, tuo munimine securi litterarum studiis operam quietissime dabimus. Unde tue celsitudini, quantas in omni quamque ingentes gracias agere poterimus, fidelitate, obsequio, omniumque oracionum suffragiis eas ne unquam referre desistemus. Verum cum tua gracia nobis liberam Cancellarii nostri modo concesserit eleccionem, litteratissimum sane gravissimumque doctorem, tue celsitudinis capellanum, magistrum Thomam Chaundelere, tum quod prudencia gravitateque eo, antea plurimis annis, functus officio, satis apud nos probatus esset, tum quod hoc facto crederemus nos posse non mediocriter tue morem gerere voluntati, unanimi nostrum omnium consensu elegimus Cancellarium. Qualem si quandoque fortassis eleccionem inter nos fuisse, non crebrius tamen, id ut confidimus Spiritu Sancto dirigente, obtigisse meminimus. Tantisper itaque superis faventibus speramus proculdubio felicem nos acturos vitam, dum rege tam preclarissimo inter omnes mundi principes precipuo ac prestantissimo protectore nostro, tamque gravi ac probato Cancellario tua sub gracia nostro utemur gubernatore. Optime ergo valeat, longaque secula felicissime vivat serenissima majestas tua, victoriosissime ac metuendissime princeps. *Ex tue Universitatis Oxoniensis congregacionis domo, tercio Nonas Junias.*

Letter testimonial for Master Isaac Cusag.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero, dum studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitacius ardenciusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Isaac Cusag, ordinis minorum, nostre Universitatis predicte sacre theologie professor, vir quidem conversacione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad doctoratus apicem honorifice provectus[1] est; exinde vero regenciam, 1473.

[1] *provestus* MS.

et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi Universitatis predicte sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto Idus Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo tercio.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1473. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Major et Johannem Acheley, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debita: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes [sigillo nostro communi signatas][1]. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo tercio die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum terciodecimo.*

267.

Fol. 124 a.

To Master T. Chaundelere, Chancellor.

The Dean of the Chapel royal, Master W. Dudley, being prevented, by attendance on the King and Queen, from coming to Oxford to take the oath, required in the 'grace' granted to him, we, considering the circumstances and his well-known benevolence to us, have dispensed with his attendance here, and authorize you to administer the usual inceptor's oath to him, either at London or Westminster, in the presence of six Masters of Arts.

1473. GRAVISSIMO ac reverendo patri dominoque nostro singularissimo, Magistro Thome Chaundelere, sacre theologie professori, almeque Universitatis matris nostre Oxoniensis Cancellario, ejusdem Universitatis Commissarius et procuratores magistrorumque regencium unanimis cetus, summa cum reverencia et honore, quam plurimam salutem. Quoniam nos jamdudum, singularissime domine, ex fide digna relacione certiores facti sumus prenobilem virum[2] magistrum Willelmum Dudley, regie capelle decanum, adeo[3] serenissimi regis nostri regineque ac regni negociis detentum esse, quod ad nos, pro juramenti secundum quandam sue gracie condicionem recepcione, accedere nequeat; hinc

[1] These four words are added on the margin, but by the same hand as the text.
[2] W. Dudley (or Sutton), third son of the eighth Lord Dudley, afterwards Bishop of Durham. [3] *ade* MS.

est quod nos id, atque quo quantoque animo ac benevolencia ipse in nos nostramque rempublicam antehac fuerit, considerantes, quoad illam secum dispensavimus condicionem; ita quod is a tua dominacione Londoniis sive apud Westmonasterium juramentum, magistris arcium suis in incepcionibus dari consuetum, in sex magistrorum presentia recipiat. Tua igitur dominatio peractis iis, que presencium lator ostendet perimplenda, illud sibi juramentum ibidem nostre congregacionis auctoritate dare, eumque secundum dicte gracie formam admittere dignetur, uti tue dominationi gratiose concessum est. Et optime valeat, longaque saecula felicissime vivat tua exoptatissima dominatio. *Raptim ex nostre congregationis domo, sexto Kalendas Apriles.*

Citation of Master Colay.

Your vexatious prosecution of Master Henry Carlyle is reported to us, you are therefore hereby peremptorily cited to appear before us at S. Mary's Church, to answer for this your attempted violation of our privilege, on pain of excommunication, within three days after you shall have been served with this notice.

CANCELLARIUS ac procuratores Universitatis Oxoniensis, necnon et ejusdem magistrorum regentium unanimis cetus domino Michaeli Colay, utroque in jure bacallario, perpetuoque ecclesie S. Michaelis de Hyworth vicario, salutem. Quoniam ex fide digna relacione certiores nuper facti sumus per te confratrem nostrum, magistrum Henricum Carlyle, in artium facultate prefate Universitatis actualiter regentem, injuste vexatum esse, contra nostra privilegia et statuta, quibus te juramenti vinculo novimus astrictum; hinc est quod nos tenore presentium te citamus, primo, secundo, et tertio ac peremptorie, mandamusque quod coram nobis, in nostre congregationis domo in ecclesia Beate Marie Oxonie, personaliter compareas, infra tres dies post citacionem tibi in hac parte factam proximo futuros, responsurus iis que tibi ibidem restant proponenda, sub pena excommunicacionis protinus infligenda. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, nostro communi sub sigillo, tercio die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo tertio.* 1473.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Major et Johannem Acheley, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone ac legalis monete 1473.

Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, septimo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum tercio-decimo.*

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

1473. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Major et Johannem Acheley, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone ac legalis monete Anglie, in plenam solutionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, octavo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum tertio decimo.*

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

1473. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chawndelere Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum ffytzjames et Johannem Netilton, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum Sancti Nicholai solvenda: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, tertio decimo die Decembris, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum tertio decimo.*

Fol. 124 b.

Testimonial letter for Master Peter ffranco.

1473. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis ejusdemque magistrorum regentium unanimis cetus salutem in omnium Salvatore. Quanquam inter cetera humanitatis officia Christiane professionis unumquemque veritati equum est testimonium perhibere, nobis tamen, qui sciencie ac veritatis studia profitemur, modo quodam singulari debitum est viros

quosque, cum opus erit, veritatis testimonio juvare. Stoicis enim placere accepimus, que in terris gignuntur ad usum hominum creari omnia, homines autem causa hominum esse generatos, ut ipsi inter se alius alii prodesse possint. Hec nimirum atque hujusmodi ante nostre considerationis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Petrus ffranco, sacre theologie professor, vir quidem conversacione honesta atque dicta in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose, una cum morum gravitate, post suam nobiscum sub bachilariatus artium gradu incorporationem, vitam transegit, quod apud nos primo in artium facultate ad magistratus apicem honorifice provectus est; deinde autem regentiam ac quecumque ad tanti gradus solemnitatem attinebant laudabiliter perimplevit; tum vero idem ad libri sententiarum lecturam admissus; postremo in sacra theologia summum illum magistratus gradum non immerito solemniter suscepisse certissime dinoscitur. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, presentes litteras communi Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, pridie Nonas Quintiles, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo tertio.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum ffitzjames et Johannem Nettilton, ejusdem[1] Universitatis procuratores, recepisse ac habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone ac legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, nono die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quartodecimo.* 1474.

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum ffitzjames et Johannem Nettilton, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse ac habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in completam solutionem cujusdam annue pensionis 1474.

[1] *ejus* MS.

predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo nono die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quartodecimo.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1474. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum ffitzjames et Johannem Nettilton, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone ac legalis monete Anglie, in solutionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, tricesimo die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quartodecimo.*

Fol. 125 a.

Testimonial letter for Master John Acheley.

In addition to the usual testimony as to learning and moral character, and the gravity and regularity of his conduct, which caused him to be appointed to the office of proctor, we declare moreover that Master Acheley has, so far as it is possible for us to know, purged himself of the charge of having mortally wounded one Gabriel Holme, during his term of office. In the presence of an honourable assembly he, with thirty other masters, laying their hands on the Holy Gospels, made oath that neither as principal or accessory was he guilty of the said crime, and we desire therefore that his innocence should be known to all men.

1474. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera quippe humanitatis officia, nobis, qui sciencie ac virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate ac scientia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero dum studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac scientie viam concitacius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister

Joannes Acheley, artium magister, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod, tum ob illius laudabilem scientiam, tum etiam ob ejus preclarissimos mores ac virtutes, ipsum in Universitatis nostre procuratorem elegimus. Qui in ipso officio, quantum nos accipere potuimus, bene ac laudabiliter se gessit; atque, quanquam de cujusdam Gabriel Holme letali vulneracione in dicti officii sui tempore accusatus fuit, is tamen coram nobis in complurimorum honorabilium virorum presentia, tam proprio quam triginta aliorum venerabilium magistrorum juramento, tactis sacrosanctis Dei evangeliis, proclamacionibus secundum formam juris prius factis, se non modo facto verum etiam consensu hujusmodi criminis sibi impositi prorsus immunem expertemque publice purgavit. Quo facto ad pristinam famam secundum juris formam, quantum in nobis erat, est mox restitutus. Ut igitur dictus magister Joannes hujus testificacionis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, prefatoque de crimine innocens, uti apud nos comprobatus est, ab aliis omnibus censeatur, nostras litteras presentes communi Universitatis predicte sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, primo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo quarto.*

Testimonial letter for Master Gonsalvo Rosa.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera quippe humanitatis officia nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est veritati, cum opus fuerit, testimonium perhibere. Ob quod nos has per litteras attestamur, quod dilectus nobis confrater, Gundisalvus Rosa, de regno Portugalie, vir vita honesta fraterque ordinis minorum, peracta prius opposicione cum responsione, ad sacre theologie bacallariatus gradum apud nos provectus est; exinde vero sermonem ad clerum librique Sententiarum introitum, secundum statutorum nostrorum tenorem, perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem istas litteras dicte Universitatis communi sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, pridie Nonas Sextiles, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo quarto.* 1474.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum Bradlegh et Ricardum Estmonde, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in 1474.

comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati debite per prefatos Abbatem et conventum: De quibus quidem viginti solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quartodecimo, die Decembris sexto decimo.*

Fol. 125 b. **Testimonial letter for Master John Taylour.**

1474. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Cum inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare; enimvero, dum studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur: nos, hec et hujusmodi ante nostre considerationis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Johannes Taylour, nostre Universitatis predicte prestantissimarum artium magister, vir quidem conversacione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provectus est. Exinde vero regenciam, et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit, et postea diversos per annos, sacris operam litteris conferens, in theologie studio profecit quamplurimum. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi prefate Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, septimodecimo Kalendas Januarias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo quarto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1475. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum Bradlegh et Ricardum Estmonde, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, in completam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et

conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie quinto decimo, die Aprilis septimo.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum Bradlegh et Ricardum Estmonde, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debita: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Data in nostre congregationis domo, septimo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quinto decimo.* 1475.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Ricardum Bradlegh et Ricardum Estmonde, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, septimo die Decembris, anno regni regis quarti post conquestum quarto decimo Edwardi*[1]. 1474.

Testimonial letter for Master John Talbote. Fol. 126 a.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Cum inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui scientie et virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate et scientia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare; enimvero, dum 1475.

[1] Such is the order of words in the MS. It will be noted likewise that this acquittance should be in the previous year's accounts; see date of next acquittance. The proctors' names are those of the year 1474.

studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac scientie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur; nos, hec et hujusmodi ante nostre considerationis oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Johannes Talbote, nostre Universitatis predicte prestantissimarum artium magister, vir quidem conversatione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provectus est: exinde vero regentiam, et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi prefate Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, sexto Idus Maias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo quinto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1475. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Bethun et Mauricium Bertram, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quinto decimo, septimo die Decembris.*

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1475. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Bethun et Mauricium Bertram, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum solvenda: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quinto decimo.*

Testimonial letter for Master Richard Hakforth.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Cum inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare; enimvero, dum studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur; nos, hec ac hujusmodi ante consideracionis nostre oculos statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Ricardus Hakforth, nostre Universitatis predicte prestantissimarum artium magister, vir quidem conversatione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provectus est. Exinde vero regentiam, et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi prefate Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, octavo Idus Marcias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo quinto.* 1475.

268.

To the King. Fol. 126 b.

Your former splendid victories, achieved in defence of your own right and the welfare of the state, won for you great glory; but your late exploits against the hereticks and opponents of the faith, in which, as became a Christian prince, you feared neither the rigour of winter, nor the risk of your health and life, so precious to us all, will make your name illustrious throughout the world: and though, as Cicero says, no works of man can resist the ravages of time, lapse of years will rather increase than diminish the renown of this your zeal for God and the church. But while your letters to us and your glorious actions show you to be most vigilant in the repression of heresy, we too feel that our conscience would reproach us, did we not likewise manifest our care for the same sacred cause. Accordingly, upon your letter being read in our Convocation, search was immediately made for all such works of Wiclif and Pecok as could be found, and they were yesterday committed to the

flames with the approbation of all; and if any further copies should be discovered they shall likewise be burnt. This we would gladly have done before, had we received any intimation, either from the Pope or the Archbishop of Canterbury, of the issue of prohibitions such as we have now received.

1475. ILLUSTRISSIMO ac Christianissimo principi Edwardo, Dei gratia Anglie et Francie regi metuendissimo, perpetui oratores humillimique subjecti, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius magistrorumque regentium et non-regentium unanimis cetus, omni subjeccione et humillitate tante tamque excellentissime debita celsitudini, salutem plurimam dicunt. Etsi antehac, invictissime princeps, tuis ex ingentissimis victoriis ac tropheis, tuo pro jure tociusque regni tui reipublice salute splendidissime gestis, quam plurimum glorie tibi cumulatissime accessit; ea tamen, que tua serenissima majestas contra fidei catholice impugnatores religionisque Christiane violatores,—uti Christianissimum decuit principem, nec hiemis asperrime maximis algoribus parcens, nec tui ipsius valetudinem respiciens, sed illam preterea vitam tuam, ex qua non nostra solum imo tuorum omnium salus dependet, nostra pro fide periculis non mediocribus exponens,—fortissime ac humanissime jamdudum peregit, tuum nomen tuamque percelebrem famam, cum multo pluris sit Christi fidem quam hominum jura tueri, non modo hoc tuo in regno verum eciam universum per orbem proculdubio vehementissime illustrabunt. Neque his profecto tropheis tuis ac monimentis est ulla unquam allatura finem etas; et quanquam, ut Ciceroni placet, nihil est opere ac manu factum quod non aliquando conficiat ac consumat vetustas, hic tamen fidei Christiane fervor, hic legis Dei zelus, hec denique sanctissime religionis propugnatio, quotidie magis magisque florescet; ita ut[1], quantum operibus tuis diuturnitas detrahet, tantum afferet laudibus. At quoniam [nobis][2] tuam serenitatem non solum littere tue graciosissime, quas ad nos nuperrime dederas, sed alia quoque peregregia facta, que ad tuam excellentissimam gloriam in ore sunt omnium, populo[3] te, in hereticis reprimendis heresibusque nefandissimis abolendis, quam vigilantissimum ostenderunt; nisi nos etiam—quorum tu non tantum ut ceterorum ecclesiasticorum generalis defensor, sed singularissimus, ut prius ex speciali gratia pollicitus es, protector existas, cum hec tua Universitas eam ob causam a tuis inclitissimis fundata sit progenitoribus—omnem curam operam atque diligentiam ea in re poneremus, ipsa nimirum nos conscientia nostra quam maximo vituperio dare posset. Unde, tuis generali in convocatione celeberrimis litteris a nobis intellectis, omnes

[1] *ut* repeated MS. [2] *nobis*, added over the line. [3] *popupo* MS.

tam ipsius Wiclif quam etiam Reginaldi Pecok libros atque tractatus, qui quidem apud nos quibusdam in locis quasi deserti ac ignoti latitabant, accurata ac diligenti, prehonorabilis domini nostri Cancellarii, tue serenitatis capellani auctoritate, mox facta ubique perscrutacione, suas in manus collectos—ne ii deinceps simplicioribus viris et, ut hominum plerumque se habent mores, ad malum semper pronis, tua nobis id ipsum prudentia scriptitante, deceptionem et ruine occasionem inducere possent,—unanimi omnium nostrum consensu comburendos censuimus: qui etiam heri nobis omnibus ibidem presentibus publico in loco universi sunt igne consumpti: si qua vero eorum utrorumvis opera in futurum poterimus invenire, ipsa pariter incendentur. Quod utique, si antea nostram ad noticiam, aut per beatissimum patrem nostrum Papam, seu reverendissimum Cantuariensem Archiepiscopum quemcumque, prohibitiones hujusmodi, quales jam novimus, pervenissent, longe prius libentissime fecissemus. Pergat igitur, quesumus, tua prestantissima majestas ceteras ad regni hujus partes, uti in quibusdam cepisti, hereticos ac reliquos malefactores quoslibet corrigendo aut prorsus exterminando; et in te haud dubium vetus illud Maronis vaticinium aptissime conveniet; '*In freta dum fluvii current, dum montibus umbre lustrabunt, convexa polus dum sidera pascet, semper honos nomenque tuum laudesque manebunt*:' Nobisque perpetuis, ut nos esse obnoxios fatemur, uteris oratoribus. Et optime semper valeat, longaque secula felicissime vivat, tua victoriosissima majestas, Christianissime princeps. *Ex tue Universitatis Oxoniensis congregacionis domo, decimo Kalendas Apriles.*

Testimonial letter for Master Thomas Yonge. Fol. 127 a.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Cum inter cetera humanitatis officia nobis, qui scientie et virtutis studio profitemur, singulari quodam modo debitum est viros morum gravitate ac scientia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare; enimvero, dum studiosis eruditisque hominibus laus digna tribuitur, reliqui ad capessendam virtutis ac scientie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur; nos, hec et hujusmodi ante nostre consideracionis oculos statuentes, has per literas attestamur quod predilectus nobis confrater, magister Thomas Yonge, nostre Universitatis predicte prestantissimarum artium magister, vir quidem conversacione honesta dictaque in facultate apprime doctus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem 1476.

honorifice provectus est. Exinde vero regentiam, ac quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimplevit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gratia omnium uberiorem consequatur favorem, nostras litteras presentes communi prefate Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, tercio nonas Apriles, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1476. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Bethun ac Mauricium Bertram, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo Oxonie, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum quinto decimo, quarto die Decembris* [1].

Another acquittance of the same Abbey.

1476. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Bethun ac Mauricium Bertram, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse ac habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi viginti sex solidos bone ac legalis monete Anglie, in completam solutionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, quarto die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum sexto decimo.*

[1] This acquittance seems to be misplaced in the register, and to belong to the year preceding.

269.

To the King.

Among all the troubles which have befallen us, we know not why, in these days, none has been so bitter as the delight certain people take in slandering the most virtuous members of this University: but we are comforted in our sorrows by the interest you have ever taken in our welfare, by your singular wisdom in the management of affairs, and your dutiful respect for the church. We doubt not, therefore, that you will both maintain the innocence of those who support the true faith, and punish those who boldly impugn it. Master T. Smyth, whose cause we hope you will defend, needs no argument to prove the soundness of his opinions, for he has spent a large part of his life in teaching, and has ever borne the character of a good catholic; and lately, convocation being summoned, every member of the same, on his oath, declared that he had never known him to advance any heretical opinions, or even suspected him of entertaining them. We commend him therefore to your majesty, that, being known to possess your favour, his virtues may be the more readily appreciated by the Archbishop and bishops.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, illustrissimoque Anglie et Francie regi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis necnon universus regencium et non-regencium cetus sese cum omni et subjeccione et reverencia commendatos faciunt. Ex omnibus reipublice nostre molestiis, Christianissime princeps, in quas proximis his diebus etas nostra, quo fato nescimus, inciderit, nihil acerbius nos conturbat, quam quod ea quibusdam voluptas est integerrimos nostre Universitatis alumnos summo dedecore atque ignominia lacessitum ire. Sed in tanta rerum omnium perturbacione, luctu et squalore, nihil nobis majori solacio esse possit, quam tua, prestantissime princeps, humanitas in nostram semper salutem propensa, singularis ad hoc tua rebus in agendis prudencia, summa denique in universam ecclesiam pietas atque observantia. Que tue profecto maxime virtutes, et Christianissimo principe non indigne, tantum nobis ad bene sperandum persuadent, te, pro tua incredibili erga omnes equitate, non minus horum innocentiam tueri velle, qui orthodoxam fidem integerrime colendam ducunt[2], quam illorum pertinaciam ulcisci, qui ad impugnandam catholicam veritatem intrepidi conspirant atque conflagrant. Quamobrem facile, ut speramus, majestati tue, prestantissime rex, causam innocentissimi viri, magistri T. Smyth, capessendam persuadebimus: quippe cujus inno- 1476[1].

[1] In the case of this epistle the date is written in numerals over the letter by a contemporary hand. [2] *dicunt*, corrected on margin, MS.

centiam atque integritatem luculentissimis argumentis jam inde perpectam, et gravissimis testimoniis jampridem comprobatam habuimus.
Fol. 127 b. Nulla profecto evidentiora sue integritatis argumenta esse possunt, quam quod legendo, predicando, respondendo, in quibus non parvam vite partem consumpsit, se virum catholicum semper prebuit. Testimonia vero tanta fuerunt, ut ne suspectus quidem ulli nostrum unquam videretur; quartodecimo namque Kalendas Junias, convocatis singulis omnium facultatum regentibus et non-regentibus, cum omnes jurejurando astricti atque obtestati essent ad id confitendum, si vel alicujus unquam heresis ab eo defense conscii, vel suspicione aliqua adducti fuissent, nemo erat, qui non illius integritatem contestaretur. Que cum ita sint, eum tue celsitudini, humanissime rex, imprimis ita commendamus, ut, tua gratia insontibus digna potitus, Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo ceterisque episcopis majori suarum virtutum testificatione commendari possit. Quod si te facturum receperis, nihil erit ad innocentissimum virum conservandum expeditius; atque ut facias etiam atque etiam rogamus. Et valeat tua semper egregia majestas, strenuissime princeps. *Ex Oxonia, tertio decimo Kalendas Junias.* Tue majestati deditissimi Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius universusque regencium et non-regencium cetus.

Βιλελμος Γροκιν[1].

Testimonial letter for Master T. Smyth.

1476. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie proculdubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui scientie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et scientia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare; enimvero, dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac scientie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec igitur nobis ante oculos proponentes, per has litteras attestamur, quod magister T. Smyth, amantissimus nostre Universitatis alumnus, usque adeo virtutum optimarumque arcium atque sacrarum litterarum studiis incubuit, ut primo artium magister, tum sacre theologie bacallarius, postremo ejusdem professor integerrimus evaderet. Quo magis admiramur eum heretice pravitatis nomine cuipiam suspectum videri posse; presertim cujus ab ineunte adolescencia pene studium, tum legendo, tum predicando, tum respon-

[1] On the upper margin of this folio, 127 b, is written Βιλελμος Γροκιν, perhaps the writing of Grocin: and it is noticeable that here the handwriting, which had continued the same for several folios, changes.

dendo in publicam multorum utilitatem semper accommodatum tam late patuit, ut nostra quidem sentencia neminem illius integritas atque innocencia latere debeat. Sed quoniam animadvertimus aliquos adversaria quadam opinione ita persuasos esse, ut his luce clarioribus innocentissime vite argumentis ne commoneri quidem possint, statuimus universos omnium facultatum regentes et non-regentes quartodecimo Kalendas Junias convocari, ut singuli, juramento primum artati, quidnam de eo sentirent palam confiterentur: Atque in tanta tamque incredibili clarissimorum hominum frequentia, ne unus quidem inventus est, cui vel suspecta illius unquam vita fuerit. Quocirca nos istius preclari viri merita, quoad debemus, memoria repetentes, quo tandem apud ceteros ubicumque locorum clarius elucescat, has litteras impresentiarum communi dicte Universitatis sigillo consignandas duximus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, duodecimo*[1] *Kalendas Junias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

270.

To the Bishop of Worcester.

The law of God and natural affection demand in children care for those to whom they owe their being; and a similar bond exists between our selves and the University, to which we owe, not indeed our being but, what is better, education to a virtuous life. We are however without the means of showing our gratitude; and, as the danger which impends grows daily more alarming, we are obliged to fly to you in our need. The church of S. Mary the Virgin is in a dilapidated condition and the roof threatens to fall in, to the peril of many lives and serious damage to our property. Here it was that you received your degrees, and commenced the life which has been so honourable to the University and advantageous to the Church; and you have on former occasions been a benefactor to this parish. We ask you then to assist us in repairing this our only public building, and would remind you that from its conspicuous situation the good work will be seen by all.

Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, divina providencia Wygorniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium cetus sese, cum omni reverentia tanto patri debita, commissos faciunt. Cum eam filiorum in parentes pietatem, reverende pater, omnia jura et divina et humana esse volunt, ut, qui parentium cura vite beneficium sunt consecuti, illorum[2] saluti atque incolumitati 1476.

[1] The convocation is said above (ep. 269) to have been held on the 14th Kal.
[2] *illorum quorum* MS.

maxime consulere debeant; tum nos precipue prestantissime Universitatis filii, in ipsius amplissimis quotidie laribus obversati, multo maxima erga eam pietate esse debemus; presertim que nos non ad vivendum modo, sed, quod longe preclarius est, ad bene beateque vivendum instituit. Verum, cum nostre ardentissime in eam voluntati facultates nequaquam respondeant, cogimur ad tuam paternitatem, colendissime presul, confugere, eoque accuratius quo periculi magnitudo nostre Universitati magis ac magis indies impendeat. Unicum namque
Fol. 128 a. Universitatis nostre domicilium, in quo creandorum magistratuum comitia celebrari solent, usque adeo vetustate confectum est, ut nisi celerius occurramus, ipsius tectum, quod jam diu casurum se minabatur, decidere atque labefactari debeat; cum in multorum periculum tum in matris nostre non mediocre detrimentum. Quapropter tuam in primis humanitatem, reverende pater, obsecramus atque obtestamur, ut qui in hoc ipso loco summum fuisti magistratus apicem consecutus, quique etiam preclarissima nostre Universitatis munera honorifice gessisti, qui denique ex singularissimo tante matris filio dignissimus ecclesie pater evasisti, illius tandem ecclesie, quam tua sponte maximis antea beneficiis ornasti, impendentem nunc ruinam tua solita benignitate prevenias atque propulses. Hoc nihil certe majus, nihil illustrius, nihil denique memorabilius efficere possis. Primum etenim, cum et filius et pater existas, simul utique tum filii tum patris officio perfunctum esse videberis: filii quod Universitatis domicilium, patris quod ecclesie domum reparandam susciperes; quod certe tantumdem est ut nihil addi possit. Nam tametsi superiora tua profecto non parva in ecclesiam collata beneficia parochiani haud ab re maximi semper fecerint, hoc tamen novum humanitatis officium, si suscipiendum duceres, tanto pluris estimaremus, quod non in illorum magis quam in nostre Universitatis commoditatem redundaret. Demum hoc ipsum opus in eo loco situm esset, ubi in clarissimorum hominum conspectu semper elucesceret. Postremo pollicemur nos tanti beneficii memoriam, uti par est, omnium posteritati commendatum ire. Et vale, magnificentissime presul. *Ex Oxonia in nostre congregationis domo, sexto Kalendas Julias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

Testimonial letter for Master Edward Underwod.

1476. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et

nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate atque sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante oculos nostre[1] consideracionis statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod dilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Edwardus Underwod, primum nostre Universitatis predicte arcium magister, vir quidem conversacionis venustate conspicuus, ingenio agilis atque in dicta facultate mature eruditus, adeo studiose una cum morum gravitate vitam nobiscum transegit, cunctis bene beateque vivendi speculum exhibendo, quod in eadem facultate ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus[2] fuit: exinde vero regenciam et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant laudabiliter perimplevit: postremo ad sacriora[3] studia translatus, sacre tandem theologie baccalarius evasit. Ut igitur hujus testificationis gracia omnium quorum penes se interest uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre Universitatis congregacionis domo, tercio nonas Julias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

Testimonial letter for Master William Wryham.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et[4] nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate atque sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante oculos nostre[1] consideracionis statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis confrater, Magister Willelmus Wryham, nostre Universitatis predicte sacrarum litterarum professor, vir quidem conversacionis venustate conspicuus, ingenio agilis, primum, quo facilius in dicta facultate proficeret, optimarum arcium disciplinis ea cura atque studio incubuit, quod in eadem facultate apud nos ad magistratus apicem honorifice provehi meritus fuit: deinde, transacta regencia, necnon hiis, que ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perimpletis, sacras litteras studiosissime complexus theo- 1476.

[1] *vestre* MS. [2] *mretus* ib. [3] *sacrariora* ib. [4] *ut* ib.

logie baccalarius evasit: postremo prestantissimum in eadem facultate
Fol. 128 b. gradum, cum ingenti suarum virtutum ac sciencie approbacione, consecutus est. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium quorum penes se interest uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio nonas Julias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

Testimonial letter for Master Walter Harford.

1470. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero, dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante oculos consideracionis nostre statuentes, has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Walterus Harford, nostre Universitatis predicte arcium magister, vir quidem conversacionis venustate conspicuus et in dicta facultate non mediocriter eruditus, usque adeo in utrisque, tam virtutum quam bonarum arcium, studiis profecit, ut ad magistratus apicem in eadem facultate consequendum non indignus videretur. Denique post adeptum gradum regenciam et quecunque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinebant, laudabiliter perfecit. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium quorum penes se interest uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, pridie nonas Julias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1476. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Bettys, Willelmum Southworth ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda[1]: De quibus

[1] *solvendum* MS.

quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum sextodecimo, quinto die Decembris.*

Testimonial letter for Master Maurice Raimon[1].

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere 1476.
pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero, dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante oculos nostre consideracionis statuentes[2] has per litteras attestamur, quod predilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Mauricius Raimon, Universitatis Parisiensis[3] arcium magister, ea quidem apud nos vite ac morum probitate polluit, eamque liberalissimis disciplinis operam dedit ut illum in eo ipso inter nos gradu incorporare non dubitaremus. Deinde hiis omnibus, que ad regenciam queque ad tanti gradus solennitatem attinent, accuratissime perfunctus in optima sacrarum litterarum studia se potissimum contulit. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium quorum penes se interest uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto, Idibus Decembris.*

Testimonial letter for Master Martin Joce.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere 1476.
pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia justicie procul dubio consentaneum, et nobis, qui sciencie et virtutis studia profitemur, peculiari quodam modo debitum est, viros morum gravitate et sciencia preditos digne laudis testimonio juvare: enimvero dum studiosis et eruditis hominibus laus digna tribuitur, ceteri ad capessendam virtutis ac sciencie viam Fol. 129 a.
concitatius ardentiusque hortantur. Hec et hujusmodi ante oculos nostre consideracionis statuentes, has per litteras attestamur quod predilectus nobis in Christo confrater, magister Martinus Joce, vir

[1] Or perhaps *Ramiou.* [2] *statutentes* MS. [3] *Parisius* ib.

nostra sentencia et bonis moribus preditus et in medicinis liberalibusque disciplinis non mediocriter eruditus, cum primum in Universitate Bononie eum tum optimarum arcium magistrum tum in medicinis baccallarium evasisse intellectum nobis esset, in iis ipsis apud nos gradibus incorporatus est. Ut igitur hujus testificacionis gracia omnium quorum penes se interest uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras communi Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto, Idibus Decembris.*

Certificate of incorporation of the same Master Joce.

1476. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit, ut quibus ad gradus promerendos in hac nostra Universitate virtutes ac discipline profuerint, illis etiam ad honores adipiscendos ubique terrarum gradus ipsi suffragari possent. Quam quidem expectatam mercedem eo facilius assequi solent, quo illa virtutum disciplinarumque ornamenta et majori auctoritate et gravioribus testimoniis commendata confirmataque fuerint. Hec itaque nobiscum animadvertentes, per has litteras testificamur dilectissimum nobis in Christo confratrem, magistrum Martinum Joce, virum certe nostra sententia et preclarissimis moribus institutum et optimis arcium medicinarumque disciplinis eruditum, primum Bononie illorum professorem egregium, harum baccilarium peritissimum evasisse; tum vero sub eorumdem graduum titulis in hanc nostram Universitatem ascriptum esse. Atque hec cum ita sint, reliquum est ut illum ea tandem commendatione dignemur, quo majorem illi et gratiam et benevolentiam apud ceteros quoscunque conciliare possit. Itaque, ut hec nostra benemeriti hominis commendatio plus ponderis habitura sit, has litteras communi dicte Universitatis sigillo communiri fecimus. *Datum Oxonie, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto, tercio Idus Marcias.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1477. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Bettys et Willelmum Southworth, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem

et conventum solvenda: De quibus quidem quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo octavo die Martii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum septimo decimo.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Bettys et Willelmum Southworth, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum solvenda: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos; dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo octavo die Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum septimo decimo.* 1477.

Testimonial letter for Master Michael Lambard, of the University of Caen. Fol. 129 b.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit, ut quibus in hac nostra potissimum Universitate ad gradus promerendos virtutes ac discipline profuerint, illis etiam ubique terrarum ad graciam conciliandam gradus ipsi prodesse possint. Quam quidem expectatam mercedem eo facilius illos assequi solere meminimus, quo hec ipsa virtutum disciplinarumque ornamenta et majori auctoritate et gravioribus testimoniis commendata confirmataque fuerint. Harum itaque rerum diligenti animadversione nimirum impulsi, his litteris testificandum duximus dilectissimum nobis in Christo confratrem, magistrum Michaelem Lambard, ea diligencia primum instituta vivendi philosophandique scienciam persecutum esse, ut quem liberalium arcium magistratum in Universitate Cadamo[1] fuerat antea consecutus, eodem denuo nos ipsi quidem donare minime dubitaremus: tum vero iis, que ad tanti gradus solemnitatem attinent, peractis, ad sacrarum denique litterarum studia nonnihil opere atque industrie conferens, in his tandem usque adeo profecit, ut sacre pagine cum bacallarius tum professor egregius 1477.

[1] This word, erased and rewritten clearly enough, should be *Cadamensi.*

evaserit. Que cum ejusmodi sint, ut suapte natura quoscunque facile mortales, qui vel honestatem vel doctrinam colunt, talî tantoque viro conciliare debeant, tum multo maxime fieri posse speramus, si id ipsum probatissimorum hominum testimonia comprobaverint. Nos itaque, quo hec nostra benemeriti hominis commendacio, simul cum ingenti suarum prestantissimarum dotum testificacione, plus apud cunctos ponderis habitura sit, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo septimo, tertio nonas Quintiles.*

271.

To the King.

No favour you can bestow upon us is so desirable as protection from those who molest us, and hinder the peaceable pursuit of our studies; and this it was, no doubt, that prompted you, alone of all our kings, to take upon yourself unasked the protection of this our commonwealth. We pray therefore that others may be taught to respect our liberties, and, in particular, certain officials of the exchequer; who, by imposing the burden of collecting tenths upon our Chancellor, call away his attention from the duties of his office. By taking our part in this and other matters you will add to your own honour even more than to our welfare, for the voice of history tells us that those who defend win no less glory than those who found a state.

1477. CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, Dei gracia Anglie et Francie regi invictissimo, necnon suo singularissimo protectori, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie universusque regencium in eadem cetus se cum omni reverencia commendatos faciunt. Credimus, illustrissime princeps, nihil nobis litterarum studia profitentibus abs tua celsitudine optabilius unquam dari potuisse, quam ut adversus quoscumque impetus, virtutibus ac disciplinis infestos, tuo freti patrocinio litterarum ocio diligentius operam impendamus. Quod sane quoniam vel tue providencie satis atque satis prospectum fuit, teipsum in primis recepisti, non aliorum antea regum exemplo sed tua sponte potissimum incitatus, unicum nostre reipublice protectorem fore. Tuam itaque, preclarissime rex, majorem in modum prestanciam rogamus atque obsecramus, ut in tuendis libertatibus nostris eum te prestes, quem hactenus ab inicio erga nos fuisse comperimus: ut, quoniam singularem nostre Universitatis conservande curam humanissime suscepisti, eam ceteri omnes minime vulgarem esse cognoscant. Sunt enim ex scaccario, qui Cancellarium nostrum novis et ante hunc

diem inauditis colligendarum decimarum oneribus infestantes, eum ab Universitatis regimine prorsus avocent. Sunt et alia contra hanc ipsam tentata, que omnia ad te unum, Christianissime rex, utpote precipuum harum omnium moderatorem tempestatum, referimus; existimantes hanc tuam in conservanda Universitate diligenciam non inter minima tuarum laudum monumenta recensendam esse. Nam, si antiquissima veterum exempla meminisse juvat, intelliges plane non minorem civitatum defensoribus quam earum conditoribus gloriam accessisse. Quare, si hanc abs te graciam per litteras aucupari possumus, non tam utilitati nostre quam glorie tue consuluisse videberis. Fac igitur, quesumus, si nos ames, tantum apud te littere nostre momenti habeant, ut utilitati nostre gaudentes simul et glorie tue gratulemur. Et optime valeat egregia tua majestas, serenissime princeps.

272.

To the Bishop of Durham.

Your goodness to us has always been so great, that, were it not for the experience we have had of the generosity of your character, we should be ashamed to make any request, however desirable might be the object. It is, however, your disposition to grant new favours rather than to expect a return for the old; and when you remember that it is your education here that opened to you the path to your future success in life, we doubt not that the natural kindness of your disposition will be farther stimulated, and that you will use in our behalf the great influence you have with the king. . . .

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Willelmo, 1477.
divina providencia Dunelmensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie universusque regencium in eadem cetus se cum omni reverencia commendatos faciunt. Ea semper nostram in rempublicam hactenus tua fuerunt merita, reverendissime pater, ut, nisi tua singularis prestansque natura satis superque nobis spectata foret, nihil sane unquam, vel quantumcunque profuturum, abs te petere contenderemus, ne, dum utilitati prospicimus, pudori parum consuluisse videamur. Sed quoniam liberale tuum ingenium multo semper ad promerendum quam ad reposcendum propensius extitisse cognovimus, confidimus equidem beneficencie consuetudine te paratiorem indies et tanquam exercitatiorem ad gratificandum fore: quod a tua dignitate minime quidem alienum videri debet, si hoc memineris, propterea maxime tibi ad summas amplitudines aditum patuisse, quod in hoc nostro quondam domicilio versatus suavissima precepta atque instituta complexus es.

Quo familiarius, pro tantis in te matris nostre officiis, meritorum vicissitudinem reposcere impresentiarum ausi, ad tuam prestantiam, colendissime presul ac domine, confugimus, non tam veterum libertatum defensionem quam novarum servitutum propulsacionem deprecaturi. Que certe omnia, cum per nos ipsos humanissimo principi nostro commendata, confici posse speramus, tum longe celerius si ad hanc nostram commendacionem tua tandem accesserit. Non enim nescii sumus, cum tua semper apud illum plurimum valuit auctoritas, fore ut tuis vel justissimis precibus locum facile relinquat. Quod cum ita sit, nostrum est in tua fide maxime confidere, tuum vero contra spem nostram minime fallere[1].

. . . . . .

273.

Fol. 130 a.

To the Bishop of Rochester.

We should be lacking in natural gratitude, did we not heartily rejoice at your well earned promotion in the Church of Christ; and indeed our own advancement is implied in yours, for we know that your filial affection for your mother, the University, will suffer you to neglect no occasion of serving her interests. We feel, then, that we indulge no vain hope when we ask you to support by your influence the application we have found it necessary to make to the king.

1477. Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, divina providencia Roffensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie universusque regencium cetus se cum omni reverencia commendatos faciunt. Nisi degeneres prestantissimarumque nature legum immemores filii videri voluimus, tibi profecto, colendissime presul, pro tua, imo et, pace tua dixerimus, nostra, quam in Christi ecclesia es merito consecutus, dignitate, vehementer satis congratulari non possumus: quippe quem, propter singularem, qua filii in parentes affici debent, pietatem, nullum erga tam precipuam optimarum disciplinarum genetricem officii studiive munus pretermissurum firmiter confidimus. Qua nec vana spe nimirum adducti, ea tandem, que et tua amplitudine digna et nostre reipublice conductura videbantur, ex te, celeberrime pater, impresentiarum petere minime dubitavimus. Cum igitur, ob tuendas nostre parentis libertates, celsitudinem regiam nostris hoc tempore litteris duximus implorandam, nec celeriorem optacioremque hujus rei exitum, quam tui tanti patroni auctoritate freti consequi posse videmur; tuam quoque his litteris dominacionem censuimus

[1] This letter is thus imperfect in the MS.

obsecrandam, ut que[1] nostris melius conducere negociis possent, in his victoriosissimo[2] regi nostro persuadendis, tua nunquam deesse nobis velit humanitas. Quod si nostra causa faciendum duxeris, nequaquam inficiari debebimus quin gratissimi atque piissimi in parentem et patris et filii accuratissime fueris perfunctus officio. Et feliciter valeat tua semper reverenda paternitas, optime presul. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, septimodecimo Kalendas Decembres.*

274[3].

Ryȝht worshipfull our trusty and full welbeloved ȝood mastyrs, **1477.**
aftyr dew commendacion, we besech yow to call to your remembrance the blessyd intente that noble prynces hadde of old auncient tyme yn foundynge of thys universytye of Oxon, that is to thencrese of vertu and cunnynge; as wel to goddys worschipe and the berynge up of Christys feyth, as to the worship and wele of the Kynge oure Soverayne lord, and of al the lond: wich encrece can not be hadde wt out quyet and seurty from wordely bysynes and troubles. And, that consyderid, the seid noble princys, and most tendyrly oure gracyus and Christian prince now raynyng, upon oure Charter [us] hath liberaly grauntyd us large pryvylegys. Hit is so that now befor you yn your courte is yn hande a ple upon oure charter of thassise of brede and ale to be allowede; we besech you to shew un to us your favorable maistyrshippys in that mater, considerynge oure poverty, that have of the Kyngys good grace here a seurty of dwellynge wt out endument of temperell possessions. ffowrthermore, now of late hyt hath liked you to directe to the chanceler of thys the Kyngs universytie a worytte[4] to levay certayne arreragys, dew to the Kynge by the reasone of certayn dewys graunted to hyghnes yn yerys passid: which labur and bysynes so to our chancellre to be put we nevyr have knowyn ne herd of; ffor hyt is and hath be thougth oure said chancellre to be chargyd suffycyently wt the reule of students, to the peace vertu and cunnyng here to be encresed. We therfore pray you hertyly to ease and discharge us of alle such wordly besynes as shall lete the gracyus entent of the fundacyon of the same universytie, as we may evyr remembyr you yn our[5] prayers to god; who have you yn his blessid governance. Wrytyn yn the house of your congregacion the xv day of novembre.

[1] An illegible correction [perhaps *quecunque*] in MS. [2] *victoriosissimis*, but corrected in MS. [3] No address to this epistle; but cf. ep. 271, from which it would appear that it is addressed to the officials of the exchequer, of whose conduct complaint is there made to the King. [4] i. e. *writ*. [5] *your* MS.

275.

To John Lord Say[1].

1477. Rȝth worchipful oure trusty and entierly welbeloved, aftyr harty commendacyon, please hit you to wite, that amongs tharrerage of thacompte of the prouctours that have been of this universyty of Oxon remaynyth yerly yn remembrance the some of c. s, havyng upon the name of rygth reverent fadire, oure broþer, late dean of Polys: whos sowle good assoyle. Wyche summe, by recordys of oure actys, wos delyvyrd to your said worshipful broþer, than beyng proctoure of this universytie, to an entent not ȝyt performed. We therefore, as well for the love that we yn comen ow to the honor of his name and yours, that were sume tyme chid of that same moder, as to theschewing of perell of his soule, exorte pray and requyre you to send by the berere here of the said sume of c. s. to oure gret necessitys; as ȝe may ȝeve us cause to pray the more tendyrly for the said soule and your good prosperyty to god, who have you yn blessid kepynge. Wryten in the house of oure congregacion the xv day of novembre.

Acquittance of John Lord Say.

1477. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Rogerum Handeley et Thomam Parmeter, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de honorabili viro domino Johanne Say, milite, centum solidos, in plenam solucionem omnium debitorum venerabilis viri magistri Willelmi Say[1], quondam procuratoris dicte Universitatis: De quibus quidem centum solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque dominum Johannem Say, militem, inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto decimo die Novembris, anno regni regis Edwardi* [*quarti*][2] *post conquestum decimo septimo.*

Fol. 130 b.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1477. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Rogerum Hanley et Thomam Parmenter, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in

[1] No title in MS. It appears, however, that Master William Say was Proctor in the year 1441, cf. fol. 60 a. This letter then is plainly written to the brother, Lord John Say.

[2] *quarti* omitted in M

comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicolai solvenda: De quibus sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die Decembris, anno regni regis Edwardi* [*quarti*[1]] *post conquestum septimo decimo.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Rogerum Hanley et Thomam Parmenter, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, pro pensione quadam predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicolai solvenda: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quinto die Decembris, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum septimo decimo.* 1477.

276.

To the Bishop of London.

Though we can plead no service rendered to entitle us to your benevolence, yet such is our affection for you and our sense of your goodness to us, that we venture to ask a favour, than which none can more contribute to the efficiency of the University, or more surely win for you immortal honour. Though all our energies and anxiety have been exercised in the building of our school of divinity, yet after many years it is still unfinished. Our resources fail altogether, but we know your liberality and invite you to undertake the completion. We are sensible that we ask a great thing, but it is a thing no ordinary man could undertake. It is one with which your name will be for ever associated, as that of Solomon with the temple at Jerusalem.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providencia Londoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus sese in omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Etsi nulla unquam, reverende pater, a nobis in te merita proficisci tanta potuerunt, ut nostro jure tuam vicissim 1478.

[1] *quarti* omitted in MS.

beneficenciam vindicare possemus, hec nostra tamen respublica, et tue . . .[1] amantissima nobilitatis et tui erga[2] illam amoris semper conscia, mirifice nos hortata est, ut in tua potius benignitate quam nostris meritis confisi nequaquam vereremur hoc imprimis abs tua prestantia rogare, quo nihil nostre Universitatis amplitudinem vehementius illustraret, aut tue liberalitatis memoriam magis immortalem faceret. Quod si te minime peniteat in hanc nostram, imo tocius Britannie, rempublicam ascriptum olim fuisse; si ulla veteris, ut speramus, adversus illam caritatis adhuc vestigia in te resideant; si denique ceterorum complurium maxima erga suas respublicas merita tibi ante oculos proponas, non committendum putabis ut Universitati nostre ullum commodum in te claudas. Atque, ut institutum paucis perstringamus, scito, colendissime presul, nos omnem curam, sollicitudinem, studium atque diligenciam, omnem denique industriam locare atque figere in perficiendo nostro sacrarum litterarum ornatissimo domicilio; optimis equidem auspiciis inchoato, sed multis jam labentibus annis manco et prope neglecto. Quod si voluntatem facultas equaret, nihil esset preterea nobis requirendum. Sed cum desint nobis ea, quibus ad hanc rem parandam opus est, cumque tuum in multis preclarissimis rebus liberale ingenium spectatum satis habemus, statuimus nimirum ad te supplices, optime pater, confugere, ut tanti operis perfeccionem, tibi potissimum atque unice commendatam, pro virili parte suscipias. Nec certe ignari sumus quid quantumve petimus. Tantumdem sane est, ut nec a vulgo hominum suscipi, nec a potenti viro negligi aut desperari debeat. Tantumdem est ut, quemadmodum laudes illorum hominum, qui tam preclarum opus auspicati sunt, nulla etas unquam conticescet, ita et tuum nomen, si hoc ipsum perficere voles, perpetuis monimentis apud nos merito celebretur. Tantumdem denique est, ut in hoc ipso eciam sapientissimo Salamoni comparari debeas, presertim quod non secus illi templi Hierusalem, Deo in primis dedicati, construccio, quam tibi hujus domicilii, sacris litteris consecrati, consummacio reservata esse putabitur. Sed ne pluribus perinde tecum agamus, singularissime domine, ac si beneficenciam tuam vel vi exsculpere vel potius desperare videamur, epistole modum imponemus. Hoc unum proposuerimus, rem nobis multo jucundissimam fore, ut tui, pro tantis beneficiis, et vivi et mortui memoriam nos posterique nostri sempiterna religione celebremus. Et valeat tua semper sancta paternitas, reverende presul ac domine prestantissime. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto decimo Kalendas Februarias.*

[1] A word erased in MS. [2] *egregia* MS., corrected over the line by a nearly contemporary hand.

277.

To the Bishop of Winchester.

Would that our gratitude were equal to your merits, or that our words could express how deeply we feel; not indeed that we suppose you did so much for us from any desire for our thanks, but lest we should seem to neglect a duty if we were silent. No one, in this generation, has been so anxious for the general welfare of the University as yourself: while, therefore, we express to you our imperishable gratitude, we also beg that you will not refuse to interfere in a matter of more private interest, and use your influence to compose the differences between two litigants, by whose suit our privileges are imperilled.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Willelmo, divina 1478.
providencia Wyntoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Cupimus, magnifice presul, eas paternitati tue gracias agere, que vel tua erga nos merita equarent, vel nostram erga te voluntatem declararent. Non quod arbitremur graciarum expectacione impulsum te tantum de nobis benemereri voluisse, sed quo nihil videamur in te officii, quantum nos prestare possimus, pretermittere. Verum tametsi tantus est tuorum in nos meritorum cumulus, tantusque nostre in te voluntatis ardor, ut nec illis respondere Fol. 131 a.
nec huic satisfacere nobis posse concessum sit; tamen nec nostre quidem humanitatis est quod possumus omittere, nec tue quod non possumus requirere. Immortales itaque tibi, reverende pater, gracias agimus, quippe qui te omnium, quos nostra etas tulit, cupidissimum nostre Universitatis prebueris; tuam ad hoc prestanciam majorem in modum rogantes, ut qui, tua sponte incitatus, tantam[1] publicarum utilitatum curam gesseris, privatarum eciam, que ad nostros potissimum spectant, racionem habeas. Ex privatis etenim comodis publica sepenumero crescunt. Quamobrem cum jamdudum accepissemus magistrum Gylbertum Haydok, sacre theologie professorem, et Thomam Daners, ex tuis fidelissimis familiaribus unum, diuturnis litibus versatos esse, ad te, constantissime presul, rem omnem referendam putavimus. Iste publicis judiciis nostrum lacessit, ille item Universitatis privilegia requirit. Quo fit ut non parum timeamus, ne nostre tandem libertates periclitande sint. Te igitur magnopere obsecramus, humanissime presul, ut his vel tuorum vel nostrorum perturbacionibus exitum imponas: hoc enim nobis perinde omnibus[2] gratum est, ac si in nos

[1] *tantum* MS. [2] *nobis* ib.

omnes contulisses. Et valeat tua semper sancta paternitas, reverende presul. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto decimo Kalendas Februarias.*

278.

To the Bishop of London.

When the letter of Master Chaundeler was read in our Convocation we most plainly perceived that your love for us is very great, for otherwise you would not have undertaken so great a work for us. All present expressed unanimously their desire to obey your wishes, in anything you may require from us in return. We pray you to hasten, and suffer no other to snatch from you the honour due to you alone.

1478. Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providencia Londoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Ex litteris amplissimi viri, magistri Thome Chaundeler, quarto Idus Februarias coram universo reipublice nostre senatu perlectis, tuam, reverende pater, egregiam atque singularem erga nos caritatem luce clarius intelleximus. Que cum antehac maxima fuerit, in hoc potissimum tempore tanta nobis omnibus est visa, ut nulla fere, post hominum memoriam, major excogitari possit. Non enim arbitramur mortalium quempiam, nisi summa caritate affectum, adduci posse ut nostram tam immenso rempublicam beneficio donaret. Hec cum ita sint, reliquum est, magnifice presul, ut nos ipsos—si quid in nobis situm erit, quod tibi gratum jucundumque videbitur—non minus in te humanos, quam tu in nos fueris, prebeamus. Itaque cum ex iisdem litteris cuncto senatui intellectum est, qualem meritorum vicissitudinem a nobis ipse requireres, nemo erat qui, quantum fas esset, non polliceretur tue morem voluntati pro virili sua parte gerere. Perge igitur, optime presul, ut cepisti; et quoniam ad te unum hujus hereditas glorie potissimum spectat, age ne committas ut illam alienus unquam heres tibi preripiat. Curabimus equidem ut te nunquam benignitatis tue penitebit. Feliciter vivat et valeat tua reverenda paternitas, magnificentissime presul et domine singularissime. *Ex Oxonia, in nostre congregacionis domo, pridie Idus Februarias.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1478. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Rogerum Hanley et Thomam Parmynter, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse,

die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum Pasche solvenda: De quibus quidem quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, duodecimo die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum decimo octavo.*

279.

To the Bishop of London.

The little delay in complying with your wishes has been caused by the importance of the matter, which demanded mature deliberation. A statute for the commemoration of Cardinal Archbishop Kempe, and of yourself, after your death, has now been approved, the particulars whereof are herein stated. And we trust you will accept this little recognition of your munificence; for, insignificant though it be in comparison of the great service we hope for at your hands, it is the expression of an unanimous feeling of gratitude; and no statute has ever been made by the University possessing greater weight and authority.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providentia Londoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Si forte tuis, amplissime presul, optatis aliquantulo serius, quam aut nostre utilitates aut tua benignitas postulavit, respondisse videmur, eo certe minus admirari debes, quo majorem deliberandi opportunitatem[1] rei magnitudo efflagitabat. Maluimus equidem nimis segniter quam minus mature in rebus tam seriis consuluisse videri. Nunc tandem itaque omnia, que vel a nobis excogitari possent, vel a te potius expectari deberent, confecimus hoc pacto. 1478.

Statutum est quod, singulis annis futuris temporibus, ad dispositionem Cancellarii et procuratorum, inter festum S. Luce Evangeliste et festum omnium Sanctorum, cum major solet esse confluentia magistrorum, celebrentur exequie solemniter et missa in crastino, pro animabus venerabilium in Christo patrum ac dominorum, domini Johannis Kempe, nuper Cardinalis et Cantuariensis archiepiscopi, et domini Thome Kempe, Londoniensis episcopi, cum ab hac luce migraverit. Quibus exequiis et misse dominus Cancellarius, omnes doctores omnium facultatum, et omnes magistri regentes, qui pro tunc infra

[1] *oportunitatem* MS.

Universitatis precinctum extiterint, interesse teneantur. Et quilibet doctor sacre theologie, post lectionem suam ordinariam in novis scholis theologie, dicat has preces; '*Anima Domini Johannis Kempe cardinalis, et anima domini Thome Kempe Londoniensis episcopi, et anime omnium benefactorum nostrorum per misericordiam Dei in pace requiescant.*' Et quod quilibet graduatus, quandocunque predicaturus in his tribus locis, aut aliquo istorum, videlicet infra Universitatis precinctum, ad crucem
Fol. 131 b. S. Pauli, vel ad Hospitale S. Marie extra 'Bisshoppis gate' Londoniis, dictum reverendum patrem, dominum Thomam Kempe, Londoniensem episcopum, nominatim et expresse suis orationibus commendare teneatur. Proviso quod hec ordinatio primo vim capiat et effectum, cum summa mille mercarum ad edificium scolarum sacre theologie applicandarum fuerint plenarie Universitati Oxoniensi persoluta. Et si contingat aliquam porcionem dicte summe mille mercarum, post completum edificium hujusmodi, remanere, quod porcio remanens[1] ponatur in aliqua cista, ad usum scolarium mutuari volentium; de qua cum summa constiterit, fiet statutum.

Hec sunt, ornatissime presul, unica pietatis in te nostre monumenta: tantis denique cunctarum facultatum suffragiis comprobata, ut pleniori saltem auctoritate ne majores quidem nostri sanxisse quicquam aut statuisse potuerint. Suscipias igitur, reverende pater, hoc precipuum nostre ordinationis munusculum, quanquam tuis in nos speratis meritis longe impar, in pignus amoris nostri ac sempiterne beneficiorum tuorum recordationis, nulla prorsus, ut speramus, oblivione unquam abolende. Et optime valeat tua reverenda paternitas, colendissime presul et domine singularissime. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, pridie nonas Maias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo.*

Testimonial letter for Master Dionysius Cammayn.

1478. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit, ut quibus in hac nostra potissimum Universitate ad gradus promerendos virtutes ac discipline profuerint, illis etiam ubique terrarum ad gratiam conciliandam gradus ipsi prodesse possint. Quam quidem expectatam mercedem eo facilius illos assequi solere meminimus, quo hec ipsa virtutum disciplinarumque ornamenta et majori autoritate et gravioribus testimoniis commendata confirmataque fuerint. Harum itaque rerum diligenti animadversione

[1] *remanet* MS.

impulsi testificamur dilectum nobis in Christo confratrem, magistrum Dionisium Cammayn, ejusmodi moribus atque disciplinis operam dedisse, ut liberalium artium et baccallarius et magister merito evaderet; et postremo cetera omnia, que ad tanti gradus festivitatem attinent, diligentissime pro viribus peregisse. Nos itaque, quo hec nostra benemeriti hominis commendatio plus apud ceteros ponderis habitura sit, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum &c., anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo, quinto nonas Quintiles.*

280.

To the Bishop of London.

It was greatly to our interest to receive your benefaction as soon as possible, and that we have not taken steps for that purpose has been because, through a mistake of the bearer of your missive, we were not aware of your desire in the matter. Now, therefore, we have appointed four masters of arts and instructed them to receive the money from you and deliver it to us, sending to you at the same time an acquittance, if we may so call it, for the amount.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providentia Londoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Plurimum interfuisse nostra fatemur, amplissime presul, omni diligentia curasse ut tuis expectatissimis beneficiis quam celerrime potiremur. Nec sane ad illa potiunda nobis unquam defuisset industria, si tuam in ea re sententiam, tabellionum culpa jam diu nobis ignoratam,—pridie namque nonas Quintiles primum intelleximus,—prius exploratam habuissemus. Nunc vero tandem tuis consiliis acquiescentes, quatuor equidem viros, qui pecuniam abs te receptam quamprimum reddant, delegimus; videlicet magistrum Robertum Rowse, magistrum Johannem Peese, magistrum Walterum Bate, magistrum Walterum Knyghtley; ad quos etiam, quo recipiendi laborem minime refugiant, conscripsimus. Simul etiam acquietanciam, si hoc nomine uti liceat, communi Universitatis nostre sigillo consignatam ad te mittimus. Hec sunt, reverende presul, que ad nos attinere videbantur. Quod reliquum est a te solo expectamus. Fac igitur, quesumus, expectationis nostre compotes aliquando efficiamur. Et feliciter valeat tua reverenda paternitas, optime presul ac domine singularissime. *Ex Oxonia, postridie nonas Quintiles, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo.*

1478.

Fol. 132 a.

281.

To four Masters of Arts, R. Rowse, John Peese, Walter Bate, and Walter Knyghtley.

We believe you will undertake with pleasure any work for the advantage of the University; and we think you can conveniently accept payment from the Bishop of London of the sum of one hundred pounds to be paid by him. Accept, therefore, at our request, this charge; and be assured that you can in no better way fulfil your obligations to us.

1478. CANCELLARIUS Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus prestantissimis viris, magistris Roberto Rowse, Johanni Peese, Waltero Bate, Waltero Knyghtley, salutem plurimam dicunt. Credimus, amplissimi viri, ea semper apud vos caritate rempublicam nostram coli atque venerari, ut omnis labor pro tuenda illa susceptus vobis non injucundus videri debeat. Quamobrem, cum reverendus in Christo pater ac dominus, dominus Thomas, Londoniensis episcopus, centum libras ad nostram Universitatem jamdiu mittere statuisset, misissetque, si quos ad hoc delectos Universitatis nomine pecuniam illam recepturos nactus fuisset, vos tandem opportune[1] nobis ante oculos occurristis, quibus autoritatem recipiendi committere debuimus. Suscipite igitur, quesumus, hanc autoritatem, et vobis, ut speramus, minime molestam et nobis apprime utilem. Nihil erit, credite nobis, in quo magis unquam vestris erga hanc rempublicam officiis satisfacere videbimini. Valete, prestantissimi viri. *Ex Oxonia, postridie nonas Quintiles.*

Acquittance[2] of Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London.

1478. NOVERINT universi per presentes, nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Galfridum Symeon et David Irlond, procuratores ejusdem, die confectionis presentium, recepisse a venerabili in Christo patre ac domino, domino Thoma, divina providentia Londoniensi episcopo, centum libras legalis monete Anglie, ad usum et utilitatem Universitatis predicte: De qua quidem summa fatemur nos fore solutos. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis apponi fecimus; *octavo die mensis Julii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum decimo octavo.*

[1] *oportune* MS. [2] This acquittance is crossed out in MS.

Statute for Commemoration of John and Thomas Kempe.

The Statute, promised in May preceding, passed in Congregation, providing for the commemoration of John Kempe, late Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury, and Thomas Kempe, bishop of London.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, presentes litteras inspecturis seu audituris, Thomas Chaundelere, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium et non-regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis semper cura fuit atque sollicitudo, ut nichil omnino humanitatis aut officii, quantum in nobis situm est, erga eos, qui in nostram rempublicam ulla caritate sunt affecti, unquam pretermissum esse deberet. Quocirca, cum tanta tamque singularis sit in nos reverendi in Christo patris ac domini, domini Thome, Londoniensis episcopi, benevolencia, ut nulla fere major excogitari possit, neque mortalium quispiam nostra etate ampliori Universitatem matrem nostram beneficio donaverit; nostris erga prefatum colendissimum presulem officiis minime satisfecisse videbimur, nisi pro tantis beneficiis aliquam[1] spiritualem saltem munerum vicissitudinem rependamus. Quarto igitur Idus Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo, magistro predicto Thoma Chaundelere Cancellario, et magistris Galfrido Symeon et David Irelond procuratoribus, ex unanimi consensu magistrorum regentium et non-regentium *statutum est*[2], '*quod singulis annis futuris temporibus*,' *&c.* (sub eadem forma qua supra ex altera parte in litteris incipientibus post salutationem, '*Si forte tuis*[1],' *&c.* usque ad hec verba inclusive '*fiet statutum.*') In quorum premissorum omnium fidem et testimonium prefatas litteras communi Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo, tertio Idus Septembres.* 1478.

282.

To Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London. Fol. 132 b.

There could be no more convincing evidence of the sincerity of your love for us, than that unsolicited you have bound yourself by deed under your seal to the performance of your promise. We desire likewise to secure to you the performance of that we have undertaken in return. If, therefore, we do not immediately carry out all your wishes, rest assured that the delay is only because we wait until, by the resumption of lectures, the

[1] *aliqualem* MS. [2] See epistle 279.

fullest attendance of all the faculties may be had; that so the function may assume the greater solemnity. Master Knyghtley, who is no less devoted to your service than to ours, will put this clearly before you.

1478. REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providentia Londoniensi episcopo, domino suo singularissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Etsi tuam in nos caritatem atque benevolenciam, reverende pater, spectatam satis semper habuimus, nulla tamen unquam evidentiora tui nostram erga rempublicam amoris argumenta nobis esse potuerunt, quam quod tua sponte incitatus, quo nos tuis de beneficiis certissimos efficeres, teipsum tuo nobis sigillo obligari hoc tempore decreveris. Istud certe non arbitramur te tecum statuisse, magnifice presul, nisi ut immensam beneficenciam tuam securi expectaremus. Atque idcirco nostra profecto non parum interesse fatemur, omni cura et studio efficere ut de iis, que pro tantis in nos meritis, a nobis vicissim expectas, tuam dominacionem quam securissimam eciam reddamus. Propterea, si forte in omnibus tue morem voluntati modo non geramus, admirari non debes, amplissime presul, neque ob aliud id esse factum tibi persuadeas, quam ut omnibus tuis optatis plenissima cunctarum facultate, quod hoc vacacionis tempore efficere non possumus, in proxima magistrorum resumpcione tutissime satisfaciamus. Ad quam certe rem quam paratissimi sumus, testis est tue dominacionis amantissimus tuusque fidelissimus capellanus, magister Walterus Knyghtley, et tue in nostram rempublicam caritatis et nostre in te pietatis plene conscius. Ceterum ne tuis tam immensis nimis segniter respondere videamur beneficiis, prestantissime pater, adveniente statuto tempore, posteris nostris prebentes exemplar, tui memoriam quam diligentissime celebrare confidimus. Qua profecto re ad nostram posteritatem tibi securius obligandam, tuamque erga nos benevolenciam, ut speramus, confirmandam, nihil pocius arbitrati sumus. Et feliciter valeat tua reverenda paternitas, optime presul ac domine singularissime. *Ex Oxoniis, tertio Idus Septembres.*

Acquittance of Bishop of London for two hundred marks.

1478. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, magistrum Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et universum cetum magistrorum regencium et non-regencium ejusdem Universitatis recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de reverendo in Christo patre et domino, domino Thoma Kempe, episcopo Londoniensi, ducentas mercas legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis mille mercarum

per predictum dominum Thomam Kempe, Londoniensem episcopum, predictis domino Thome Chaundelere, Cancellario, et universo cetui magistrorum regencium et non-regencium Universitatis supradicte pro quodam edificio, pro scola doctorum in theologia, prope collegium Exoniense situata, concessarum: De quibus quidem ducentis mercis fatemur nos in forma predicta fideliter fore solutos, dictumque dominum Thomam Kempe, Londoniensem episcopum, et executores suos inde esse quietos per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune Universitatis supradicte presentibus est appensum. *Datum tertio die mensis Septembris, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo, et anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie decimo octavo.*

Indenture between Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London, and the University.

Whereas the Chancellor and masters have by statute bound themselves and their successors for ever, to celebrate a solemn funeral service and mass every year, between the feasts of S. Luke and All Saints, for the repose of the souls of John Kempe, sometime Cardinal bishop and archbishop of Canterbury, and of Thomas Kempe, his nephew, bishop of London (after he shall have departed this life); and also that all preachers within the University, or at S. Paul's Cross, or at S. Mary's Bishopsgate, and all doctors of divinity, at the end of every lecture, shall pray for the said souls, and for the souls of all the faithful departed; now therefore the said Thomas Kempe, in return for the same, grants by this present deed to the said Chancellor and masters the sum of one thousand marks, whereof two hundred to be paid at the date of this present writing, and two hundred more every year on the feast of All Saints, until the debt shall have been discharged; to apply the same to the completion of the new school of theology: and the Chancellor and masters undertake so to apply it, and to no other purpose: and that, if any sum remains after the building is finished, it shall be placed in the Kempe Chest, and used for the support of poor scholars, being lent for that purpose in the manner usual in the University.

Hec indentura, facta tertio die mensis Septembris, anno Domini **1478.** millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo, et anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie decimo octavo, inter reverendum in Christo patrem, dominum Thomam Kempe, episcopum Londinensem, ex una parte, et magistrum Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, et universum cetum magistrorum regencium et non-regencium ejusdem Universitatis, ex altera

parte, testatur, quod cum dictus magister Thomas Chaundelere, Cancellarius, et cetus magistrorum regencium et non-regencium antedicti, ob singularem affeccionem et amorem, quem erga dictum episcopum Londoniensem gerunt, concesserunt et, per statutum in magna congregacione eorumdem magistrorum regencium et non-regencium facta editum, quarto Idus Aprilis anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo octavo, decreverunt, et obligaverunt se et successores suos ad celebrandas perpetuis temporibus futuris, singulis annis inter festum S. Luce et omnium Sanctorum, solemnes exequias et missam solemnem, in navi ecclesie S. Marie infra eandem ecclesiam in dicta Universitate Oxoniensi, pro anima felicis recordacionis reverendissimi in Christo patris, domini Johannis Kempe, olim episcopi Cardinalis et archiepiscopi Cantuariensis, avunculi dicti domini Thome Kempe, Londoniensis episcopi, ac pro anima ejusdem episcopi, cum ab hac
Fol. 133 a. luce migraverit; et ad habendum eum specialiter recommendatum, et nominatim recommendatum devotis oracionibus universi populi, ubi et quando aliquem eorum publice predicare in dicta Universitate Oxoniensi contingit, sive ad altam crucem in cimiterio S. Pauli Londoniis, aut apud hospitale S. Marie extra 'Bisshopisgate' juxta Londonium; et quod singuli doctores in sacra theologia in eadem Universitate existentes, et eorum successores, post ordinarias suas lecciones perpetuis temporibus futuris dicent has preces sequentes, '*Anima domini Johannis Kempe, olim episcopi Cardinalis, archiepiscopi Cantuariensis, et anima domini Thome Kempe, Londoniensis episcopi, et anime omnium benefactorum nostrorum per misericordiam Dei in pace requiescant*'; nolens igitur dictus dominus Thomas, episcopus Londoniensis, tantum beneficium irremuneratum existere, consideransque quod in dicta Universitate Oxoniensi est quoddam edificium, pro scola doctorum in theologia, prope collegium Exoniense situatum, dispositum, adeoque sumptuose inceptum quod dictus Cancellarius cetusque magistrorum antedicti expensis Universitatis nequeunt consummare, concedit et presenti scripto indentato obligat se et executores suos eisdem magistro Thome Chaundeler, Cancellario, et cetui magistrorum regencium et non-regencium supradictis eorumque successoribus ad solvendum mille marcas, sub modo et forma sequenti, videlicet in die confeccionis presencium indenturarum dictus dominus Thomas, episcopus Londoniensis, solvet seu solvi faciet ducentas mercas; et in vigilia omnium Sanctorum, que erit in anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo nono, alias ducentas mercas; et sic, de anno in annum, in vigilia omnium Sanctorum vel citra, quousque dicta summa mille mercarum totaliter fuerit persoluta talibus personis, per Cancellarium et procuratores in congregacione magistrorum regencium dicte Uni-

versitatis Oxoniensis deputandis seu assignandis, habentibus sufficientem auctoritatem sub sigillo communi Universitatis predicte recipiendi et acquietandi dictum dominum Thomam, episcopum Londoniensem, et executores suos, de omnibus pecuniarum summis per eos recipiendis. Et dictus magister Thomas Chaundelere, Cancellarius, et universus cetus magistrorum regencium et non-regencium dicte Universitatis obligant se et successores suos per presens scriptum indentatum dicto domino, episcopo Londoniensi, in mille mercis sterlingorum, solvendis eidem domino Thome Kempe, Londoniensi episcopo, et executoribus suis, quod nec ipsi, nec alii quicumque, dictam summam mille mercarum, nec aliquam partem ejusdem, alienabunt, accommodabunt aut in alios usus convertent, quam in edificacionem seu construccionem dicte nove scole; nisi de dicta summa alique pecunie remanserint post completam edificacionem, vitriacionem et descos ejusdem scole factos; quas pecunias dictus Cancellarius et universus cetus magistrorum regencium et non-regencium dicte Universitatis, secundum antiquam fundacionem cistarum ibidem, reponent seu per alios magistros per eos deputandos reponi facient absque dilacione in cista vocata cista domini Thome Kempe, sub diversis clavibus serata, in sustentacionem pauperum scolarium in eadem Universitate studencium, de eadem summa mutuare volencium, sub sufficienti caucione ponenda in eadem cista, ubi hujusmodi pecunie conservantur, modo conformi, sicut antiquitus in eadem Universitate consuetum fuit. Et in testimonium omnium premissorum fideliter perimplendorum, uni parti hujus indenture, penes dictum reverendum in Christo patrem, dominum Thomam Kempe, episcopum Londoniensem, remanenti, predictus magister Thomas Chaundelere, Cancellarius antedictus, et cetus magistrorum regencium et non-regencium dicte Universitatis sigillum commune Universitatis supradicte apposuerunt; alteri vero parti ejusdem indenture, penes predictum Cancellarium et cetum magistrorum regencium et non-regencium remanenti, predictus reverendus in Christo pater dominus Thomas Kempe, episcopus Londoniensis, sigillum suum apposuit. *Datum die et anno supradictis.*

283.

To Master Peter Courteney, Dean of Exeter.

We are very sensible of the value of your services, which are of general utility to the University, and cannot feel satisfied without expressing our gratitude, in a humble way it is true, but in substantial form. We therefore signify to you that by vote of Convocation you are

admitted to the same degree here as that you enjoy in the University of Padua, and moreover that for your convenience the oath of incorporation may be administered to you, at any place you choose, by commissioners appointed for the purpose.

1478. AMPLISSIMO viro ac domino, magistro Petro Courteney, Exoniensis ecclesie decano dignissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Non possunt exigua nobis tua in nostros videri merita, prestantissime vir ac domine, presertim cum ejusmodi sint ut simul in publicam utilitatem redundent. Quapropter nobis ipsis nequaquam satisfacere potuimus, nisi tibi pro tantis immortalibus beneficiis aliquas gracias, quanquam impares, non tam verbis quam re ipsa ageremus. Significamus itaque tibi, plena regencium auctoritate concessum esse, ut eodem dignitatis nomine, quo Padue donatus es, in nostram Universitatem ascribi posses. Forma siquidem gracie hec est '*Supplicat venerabili congregacioni, &c. egregius vir, magister Petrus Courteney,*
Fol. 133 b. *doctor juris canonici in Universitate Patavensi, quatenus posset incorporari in hac Universitate sub eodem gradu.*' Hec gracia est concessa simpliciter; sed quoniam animadvertimus tuam prestanciam in tantis pastoralium occupationum fluctibus versari oportere, ut nulla visendi Oxonias tibi facultas dabitur, nonis Quintilibus consultum est, ut nichilominus incorporationis tue juramentum ubicumque locorum tibi suscipere liceret, cujus concessionis hec est forma: '*Sexto die Julii dispensatum est, quatenus juramentum concernens incorporacionem venerabilis viri, magistri Petri Courteney, posset deferri ei per Cancellarium et procuratores, aut per commissarium et procuratores seu eorum deputatos, ubicumque placuerit illi.*' Cupimus, amplissime domine, has gracias—utinam tam tua prestancia dignas quam gratis a nobis concessas—ea et sponte et comitate qua contulimus a te suscipiendas esse. Quod si feceris, incredibilis ad tua maxima beneficia cumulus accessisse videbitur; atque ut facias iterum atque iterum rogamus. Et vale, prestantissime vir ac domine, et altera reipublice nostre expectata salus. *Ex Oxoniis, sexto-decimo Kalendas Novembres.*

284.

To W. Waynfleet, Bishop of Winchester.

Your great beneficence is so far from deterring us that it makes us venture to ask a further favour, for we remember the saying of Cicero that it is the mark of a noble mind to be willing to incur new obligations to those who have already shown us kindness. Will you

then lend us the machines you have used for the erection of your beautiful college? To provide such expensive things for ourselves would be a great drain upon our resources, and would seriously delay the completion of our new school.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Willelmo, divina providentia Wyntoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Non potuerunt, amplissime presul, tua nos ingentissima beneficia deterrere, quominus pro communi reipublice nostre utilitate, si quid ipsius interesset, ad tuam prestantiam conscriberemus. Est enim, ut ait Cicero, nobilis animi atque ingenii, cui multum debeas ei plurimum velle debere. Quapropter cum, statuentibus jam nobis ad novarum scholarum perfectionem prorsus incumbere, tuum quoque subsidium ad eam rem perquam opportunum videatur, te rogamus, optime pater—ut qui semper ad communes utilitates amplectendas tua sponte satis incitatus es—nostris etiam precibus ad eas ipsas incitari velis. Atque, ut intelligas quid est quod tantopere cupimus, desunt profecto nobis edificiales machine, adeo quidem ad nostrum institutum necessarie, ut sine iis nichil aggrediendum sit; quas si de integro parabimus, necesse erit cum grandem in illis pecuniam exhauriri, tum expectati operis consummationem diutius retardari. Quibus equidem malis te unum in primis, magnifice presul, facile mederi posse intelligimus, si [vel[1]] illis edificialibus instrumentis, que ad tui clarissimi collegii fabricam comparata sunt, utendi nobis copiam feceris. Hoc certè nichil erit nobis, vel ad levandos sumptus vel ad celeritatem construendi, accommodatius. Quod si nostra causa facturum te receperis, curabimus equidem nos ut gratiarum actiones tibi feneremus. Nam cum pro illis meritis, que non rogatus ultro contuleris, magnas tibi gratias agere debemus, tum pro iis, que postulantibus nobis concesseris, multo maximas agemus et habebimus. Et feliciter valeat tua sancta paternitas, reverende presul ac domine. 1478.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Galfridum Symeon et David Irelond, procuratores Universitatis antedicte recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, ac per eosdem Abbatem et conventum ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda: De quibus quidem 1478.

[1] *vel* written over the line in the MS.

sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto die Decembris, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie octodecimo.*

285.

Fol. 134 a. **To the Bishop of Lincoln, Lord Chancellor.**

No case, we believe, more than that of our servant John Graunt, deserves to be dealt with by so great an authority as your own. Having been greatly annoyed by one William Hye, and meeting him one day in the suburbs of Oxford, and not, as he falsely asserts, in a town outside the jurisdiction of the University, he brought him before the Commissary; when their differences were composed on a distinct agreement that no previous ground of dispute should hereafter be brought by either party before any judge other than our Chancellor. But, his oath notwithstanding, and in spite of a penalty of forty pounds, William Hye is now sueing the said John Graunt in another court, impiously despising God, and audaciously violating our ancient privileges. We have moreover, besides his written agreement above mentioned, witnesses who will prove that his statement that he was assaulted, beaten, and finally imprisoned, are all false.

1478. Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providentia Lincolniensi episcopo, Cancellario Anglie dignissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Si ulla unquam causa tam digna tamque justa visa est, in qua maximi patroni cum summa laude versari possent, eam tibi, amplissime presul, his temporibus a nobis oblatam intelligas. Est enim ejusmodi, que nec silencio preteriri, nec a mediocri patrono suscipi debeat; in qua eciam tuenda rem profecto et Deo gratam et hominibus utilem feceris. Quam ut paucis transigamus, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum sexto, familiaris noster Johannes Graunt, qui tum Universitatis nostre libertatibus donatus, cum a quodam Willelmo Hye nonnullis molestiis aliquamdiu lacesseretur, illum forte, ita ut fit in ipsius Oxonie suburbiis, offensum, ad commissarium perduxit. Apud quem causa exposita, post aliquot dies inter illos pax ita convenit, ut pretextu alicujus ante illum diem facte injurie coram alio judice quam Universitatis Cancellario neuter alterum impeteret. Quod, quo ratum esset, tactis sacrosanctis jurejurando adacti sunt, adjecta insuper quadraginta librarum pena. Sed plus potuit alterius improbitas quam vel Dei vel hominum timor: violata namque fide ausus est

proximis his diebus dictum Johannem Graunt apud externos judices confictis mendaciis oppugnare. In quo vehementer admiramur primum hominis impietatem, ut Immortalem contemneret; tum audaciam, ut nostras nostrorumque immunitates a summis pontificibus regibusque concessis infringeret; denique improbitatem, ut innocentem virum opprimeret. Que nisi certo nobis constarent, ea nequaquam, reverende pater, temere affirmaremus. Extat namque memoria promisse fidei litteris mandata; extant quoque privilegia certissima libertates nostras continentia, que sola etiam, si cetera nobis omnia deessent, justissimam tamen huic viro defensionem afferrent. Sed quoniam non postulat vetera conventa privilegiave nostra, quoquo pacto sibi profutura, nisi suam quoque innocentiam veritas ipsa comprobet; reliquum est falsa illa esse ostendamus, que adversus istum conficta sunt. Primo namque ait calumniator ille se, dum in oppido quodam, ab Universitate nostra satis remoto nostreque ditioni minus obnoxio, versaretur, vi arreptum ad urbem Oxonie perductum esse, deinde plagis impositis vulneratum, postremo carceribus traditum immanissimeque tractatum. Que singula, crede nobis, usque adeo falsa sunt, ut non modo non facta sed ne cogitata quidem unquam fuerint. Presto enim sunt in hunc diem testes, qui plane affirmant illum in suburbano ponte orientem versus repertum esse, illincque ad commissarium venisse, nec antea verberibus cesum nec postea carceribus mancipatum. Habes, optime presul, summam cause, nostra quidem sententia justissime nec tua dignitate indigne. Quam tibi majorem in modum propterea commendamus, quod in illa consciencie curia, que justissimis causis calumnia quadam oppugnatis maxime suffragari solet, plurimum auctoritate vales. Quod si, nostro rogatu inductus, quantum in hac re potes tantum voles, profecto Dei glorie et nostris privilegiis et hominis innocencie vehementer consuluisse videberis. Et feliciter valeat tua reverenda paternitas, magnifice presul et Cancellarie dignissime. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, octavo kalendas Marcias.*

286.

To the King. Fol. 134 b.

Though we could appeal to examples of many royal patrons of learning in days gone by, we feel no need to do so in this letter, and prefer to rely upon your generosity to-day rather than on the shadowy and vague traditions of the past. You have ever shown, unasked, a great interest in our prosperity, and now we beg your help in a work which will very

greatly increase the credit of the University. Quite lately we have found friends of these our studies, who have resolved to complete our school of theology for sixty years past abandoned, and we have spared neither trouble or expense in engaging stonemasons to finish the work. Now, however, we are brought to a standstill by your requiring these workmen for your own splendid buildings now in progress; and knowing your zeal in building for the glory of God, we ask not that you will send back to us any of the workmen in question, but we beg that, if the Bishop of Winchester will lend us any of those, whose services you granted him (to build his college), you will allow us to employ them.

1478. CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, Dei gratia regi Anglie et Francie, Oxoniensisque reipublice protectori singularissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Etsi possumus, illustrissime princeps, quam plurimos vetustioris evi reges commemorare, quorum beneficio litterarum studia vehementer illustrata sunt; hac tamen imitande virtutis commemoratione nobis apud te nequaquam uti oportere visum est, quippe qui, sine ullo superioris etatis regum exemplo, singularem tuende nostre Universitatis curam tua sponte susceperis. Nos itaque potius in hac tua presenti bonitate, quam in illa umbratili rerum dubiarum memoria confisi, tuam celsitudinem imprimis hortabimur, ut in iis potissimum rebus, que ad honestandam nostram rempublicam maxime conducunt, eum nobis rogantibus te prebeas, quem semper prebiturum non rogatus ultro statueras. Quod si abs tua benignitate impetrabimus, nullum certe beneficium magis hoc tempore necessarium abs te in nos proficisci potuisse cognosces. Nacti enim sumus paucis jam diebus viros nostre Universitatis observantissimos, qui ornatissimum sacre theologie domicilium, cum sexaginta ferme annos derelictum jamdiu squalesceret, perficere constituerunt. Que res quo celerius tandem expediri posset, profecto nec laboribus nec impensis pepercimus, quin perquisitis lathomis supremam operi manum imponeremus. Nunc vero, quia quos summa diligentia perquisivimus, ad tua magnifica opera sunt accersiti, ultra progredi non possumus. Atque hec operis intermissio eam nobis desperationem affert, ut nisi quam primum cepta maturemus, verendum erit ne illis, qui sumptus hactenus suppeditarunt, ad consummandum vita non suppetat. Et dum animadvertimus tuam ardentissimam in edificanda ad Dei gloriam ecclesia diligentiam, nullos eorum, quos tua auctoritate accersitos intelleximus, abs te repetere audemus. Hoc tantum postulamus, ut si reverendus pater, dominus episcopus Wyntoniensis, nostro rogatu persuasus, aliquos ex his, quos usui suo concesseris, nostro etiam usui impartiri volet, illis

saltem utendi nobis potestatem facias. Quod cum nec tuis edificiis officere possit, tum nostris utilissimum erit. Vale, strenuissime princeps et Christianissime rex, nostreque Universitatis protector unice. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, sexto Kalendas Marcias.*

287.

To the Abbot of Abingdon.

As God is our witness, it is long since anything has given us greater pleasure than that you, of all the sons of our mother the University, have come to be so distinguished a man, and so exalted a father of the church that the whole realm is honoured by your distinction; in which we rejoice the more because it has been won by your own industry and talent. And if, as we hope, your great opportunities do but increase in you the habit of benevolence, you will, if we may venture to say so, be glad to do us a service, to whom you are bound by so close a tie. When, therefore, we heard of your intended visit to Rome, we thought it a good opportunity to consult with you as to obtaining a confirmation of our privileges; and, because the subject is one that cannot be dealt with in few words, we have charged our Chancellor to explain it to you.

REVERENDO patri ac domino, domino Johanni, Abbati de Abyndone, **1478.** clarissimo viro sacrarumque litterarum professori dignissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Deum hominesque testamur, optime pater, rem certe nullam jamdiu magis optabilem nobis accidisse, quam quod te ex omnibus matris nostre filiis unum, idque etate nostra, vidimus in tam prestantem virum tamque magnificum patrem evasisse, ut universam Britanniam tue singulares eximieque virtutes penitus illustrarent. Que profecto non tam suapte natura jucunde nobis fuere, quam quod tuas tuaque industria comparatas esse cognovimus. At si tantarum rerum te, ut speramus, minime peniteat, non dubitamus tuam prestantem naturam consuetudine beneficentie, ut Ciceronis utamur verbis, paratiorem fore et tanquam exercitatiorem ad bene promerendum de multis; sed, quod pace tua dixerimus, multo **Fol. 135 a.** maxime de nobis, presertim quos majori quodam necessitatis vinculo hec et nostra et tua veneranda parens tibi mutuo devinxit. Quapropter, cum nobis jampridem intellectum esset te ad urbem Romam quamprimum proficisci velle, opere precium certe nobis videbatur de summis reipublice nostre privilegiis aut confirmandis aut impetrandis ante profectionem tuam nonnulla tecum agere. Que cujusmodi sint, quoniam paucis explicari non possunt, ex prestantissimo viro, domino

Cancellario nostro, cujus fidei, quesumus, in hac re fidem habeas, plenissime cognosces. In quo si, ut paullo ante de omnibus ita de nobis, benemerendi tibi cura erit, proficies equidem ut quantum ceteros omnes superioris beneficii magnitudine viceris, tantum teipsum istius muneris immortalitate vicisse videaris. Illud namque duntaxat iis, qui tum supererant, suffragari potuit; hoc vero non tam nobis quam posteris nostris mirifice prodesse poterit. Vale, reverende pater et colendissime Abbas. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, tercio Kalendas Marcias.*

288.

To the Dean of Exeter.

It has ever been the wisdom of our predecessors to show peculiar respect for learning in persons of high social rank: it is due both to their position and their merit, whereof the one adds lustre to the University and the other advances its work. You have been raised to a position to which your family could never have aspired, and we ought not to be behind hand in conferring upon you a corresponding degree of academical advancement. In communicating to you the unanimous vote of Convocation by which the degrees are conferred, we hope you will not consider them an unworthy tribute, and that we may reckon upon your help and protection.

1478. PRESTANTI ac nobili viro, domino Leonello Widewill, Exoniensis ecclesie decano colendissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Sapienter instituisse majores nostri nobis videntur, amplissime domine, viros ingenuos litteris operam daturos summa semper apud nos veneratione colendos esse. Hoc enim et nobilitatis conditio et meritorum magnitudo postulabat. Tanta namque fuit multorum nobilitas, tanta fuerunt merita ut illa in gloriam ista in utilitatem Universitatis nostre redundarent. Nos igitur, quoniam certo scimus ea te nobilitate pollere, ad quam nulli tuorum majorum propemodum aspirare poterant, par est ut te etiam, in disciplinarum studiis aliquamdiu Oxoniis obversatum, non minori tandem observantia prosequamur. Iis enim honorum gradibus tuam nobilitatem ornandam duximus, quibus benemeritos viros in hoc nostro litterarum ocio versatos donare solemus. Placuit sane summo nostrum omnium consensu fieri, ut primum ad extraordinariam decretalium lecturam admitti, tum in decretis licentiari possis; ea tamen lege ut ad incipiendum nullo tempore cogi prestantiam tuam oporteat. Hoc

unicum est, clarissime domine, parentis nostre donum; revera tantum ut nec majus ab illa aut expeti debeat aut rependi possit; donum certe tua, ut confidimus, amplitudine non indignum; quod si gratie nomen merito sortiri debebit, necesse profecto erit ut et te nobis et nos tibi gratiores efficiat. Magna igitur est, colendissime vir, in tuenda republica nostra tue probitatis expectatio, quam, quia nonnullis antehac meritis concitasti, facile speramus te longe singularissimum Universitatis nostre patronum fore.

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

Fol. 135 b.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Galfridum Simeon et David Irland, procuratores Universitatis antedicte recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney, in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam solutione cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo tercio die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie decimo nono.* **1479.**

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Galfridum Simeon et David Irland, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo tercio die Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie decimo nono.* **1479.**

Citation of Master John Keel.

On examination of the funds and deeds of the Chests, we find that you have failed to render any account of the Chest under your charge for many years. We, therefore, by the Apostolic authority committed to us,

hereby peremptorily summon you to appear before us at S. Mary's church on Thursday after Trinity Sunday next, and there to clear yourself, or, in default, be declared perjured, deprived of your degrees and banished.

1479. CANCELLARIUS Universitatis[1] universusque regentium in eadem cetus magistro Johanni Keel salutem. Quia nos, de jure privilegiorum et statutorum nostrorum legittime procedentes, scrutinium et compotum cistarum ceterorumque munimentorum facientes, comperimus te per multos annos compotum seu raciocinium ciste tue non reddidisse; hinc est quod nos, auctoritate nostra apostolica, ad conservationem juris Universitatis bonorumque ejusdem, in virtute juramenti a te in hac parte prestiti, ceterorumque juramentorum fideliter Universitati nostre ac nobis in assumptione graduum prestitorum, mandamus, et tenore presentium peremptorie citamus, quod compareas personaliter coram nobis in ecclesia S. Marie Virginis feria quarta post festum S. Trinitatis proxime futurum; ad dictum computum seu ratiocinium nobis fideliter faciendum; sub penis declarationis perjurii, degradationis, bannitionis. Terminum vero hujusmodi peremptorium, cum propter anime tue gravissimum periculum nostrique gravamen non modicum, tibi duximus assignandum. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo nono, quarto decimo die Maii.*

A similar citation of Master John Cartmell.

1479. CANCELLARIUS Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus magistro Johanni Cartmell salutem. Quia nos de jure privilegiorum et statutorum nostrorum legittime procedentes, scrutinium et compotum cistarum ceterorumque munimentorum facientes, comperimus te per multos annos compotum seu ratiocinium ciste tue non reddidisse; hinc est quod nos, autoritate nostra apostolica, ad conservationem juris Universitatis bonorumque ejusdem, in virtute juramenti a te in hac parte prestiti, ceterorumque juramentorum fidelium Universitati nostre ac nobis in assumptione graduum prestitorum, mandamus et tenore presentium peremptorie citamus, quod compareas
Fol. 136 a. personaliter coram nobis, in ecclesia S. Marie Virginis, feria quarta post festum S. Trinitatis proxime futurum; ad dictum compotum seu ratiocinium nobis fideliter faciendum; sub penis declarationis perjurii, degradationis, bannitionis. Terminum vero hujusmodi peremptorium, tum propter anime tue gravissimum periculum nostrique gravamen non modicum, tibi duximus assignandum. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo septuagesimo nono, quarto decimo die Maii.*

[1] *Universitatisque regentium* MS.

Acquittance of T. Kempe, Bishop of London.

Received the sum of two hundred marks, part of one thousand promised for the school of theology.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Thomam Chaundelere, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Robertum Sorborne et Joannem Foster, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de reverendo in Christo patre et domino, domino Thoma Kempe, Londonensi episcopo, ducentas marcas, in partem solutionis cujusdam majoris summe mille marcarum, per eundem venerabilem patrem ad perfectionem operis scholarum theologie, Universitati collatarum: De quibus ducentis marcis fatemur nos fore solutos; dictumque reverendum dominum, Thomam Kempe, inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, tercio die Septembris, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum decimo nono.* 1479.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Widewyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Robertum Sorborne et Joannem Foster, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam pensione predicte Universitati debita, et per eosdem ad festum S. Nicholai solvenda: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, primo die Decembris, anno*[1] *regni regis Edwardi decimo nono.* 1479.

289.

To the Seneschal or Steward of the University[2].

RYGHT noble and mightie prince and our especial goode lord, in full humble wise we recommande us unto your goode lordship. Like it þe same þat we have duely reduced unto our remembraunce, how it shulde be tedious for your noble estate personally to execute all things requisit by the reason of your stiwardship of þe Universite of Oxford. Wherfore we lowly besech your goode lordship, to substitut ordeine and depute þe right honourable Knight, Sir Richard Widevill, to be your understiward of the saide Universite; which we trust woll 1480.

[1] *anno Domini regni, &c.*, MS. [2] John De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

politiquely endevoir hym to thaccomplisshment of all things concerning your saide stiwardship to be required in your absence. And, ryght noble and mightie prince and our especial goode lord, the holy Trinitie have you in his protection. *Writen at Oxford, under the seal of þe Universite there, þe fourth day of ffebruary.* By the Chaunceler, procuratours and regents of the Universite of Oxford.

Testimonial letter for Master Henry Roestock.

1480. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit honestissimos labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare; eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere et ceteros ad imitandum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus itaque nobis magnas et egregias virtutes dilectissimi confratris nostri, magistri Henrici Roestock, ingentem preterea sacrarum litterarum doctrinam, non mediocribus laboribus atque vigiliis comparatam; visum est officii nostri interesse plurimum, amplissimis cum bacallarii tum doctoris in sacrarum litterarum scientia gradibus illum donare; quibus adeptis eas denique res gessit, pro virili sua parte, que et ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que cum ejusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolentiam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo, quarto Idus Maii.*

Testimonial letter for Master Loppi, of Lisbon.

Fol. 136 b. 1480. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit honestissimos labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare; eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere et ceteros ad imitandum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus itaque nobis magnas et egregias virtutes dilectissimi confratris nostri, magistri Loppi, Ulixbonensis, ingentem preterea sacrarum litterarum doctrinam

non mediocribus laboribus atque vigiliis comparatam, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse, amplissimis cum baccallarii tum doctoris in sacrarum litterarum scientia gradibus illum donare. Quibus adeptis eas denique res pro virili sua parte gessit, que et ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que cum ejusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolentiam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo, quarto Idus Maii.*

Acquittance of T. Kempe, Bishop of London.

A further sum of two hundred marks received. 1480.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Widevil, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Nicholaum Halliswell et Joannem Martyn, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de reverendo in Christo patre et domino, domino Thoma Kempe, Londoniensi episcopo, ducentas marcas sterlingorum, in partem solutionis cujusdam majoris summe mille marcarum: De quibus quidem ducentis marcis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque reverendum in Christo patrem inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, sexto die Julii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo.*

290.

To the Bishop of Salisbury. Fol. 137 a.

Experience shows that nothing is so effectual in preserving the state, and nothing renders it more illustrious than high birth and virtuous character united. Since, therefore, this University has been the means of educating many of noble lineage, we may reasonably congratulate ourselves upon our honourable office; and in your own instance, were there no others, the antiquity of your family, the rectitude of your whole life, and your singular prudence in affairs of state, would furnish us sufficient reason for this boast. Such, moreover, is your influence, that it is in your power to procure for us the unexampled honour of having entrusted to our charge the education of the son of the Duke of Suffolk, whose earlier years have been spent under your careful training in virtue and knowledge. We earnestly beg that you will do this, and suffer us to complete the work you have so far accomplished.

1480. REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Ricardo, divina providencia Sarum: episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Compertum habemus, optime pater, nihil ubicumque terrarum magis ac nobilitatem virtuti conjunctam valuisse, nihilve civitatibus unquam seu conservandis seu illustrandis adeo profuisse: ideoque splendidissimas respublicas nulla re tam gloriari solere, quam quod prestantes ac probos homines suo gremio propagarint. Quocirca, cum hec nostra respublica, disciplinarum virtutumque parens optima, multos suapte natura nobiles doctrine preceptis institutos nobiliores effecerit, nobis etiam ac ceteris eque gloriari licebit; presertim in quos non inferiorum hominum hereditas glorie nostre quondam redundasse videtur. Quod si reliquos omnes quantumvis egregios, quos Universitas nostra tulit, missos fecerimus, unius profecto tui antiqua nobilitas, summa vite probitas, gerendarum rerum denique singularis prudencia ingentem nobis satis gloriandi materiam suppeditarent. His preterea tuarum virtutum laudibus accedit immensa quedam auctoritas, qua usque adeo preter ceteros pollere videris, ut omnem Oxoniam novo atque inaudito splendore illustrare possis; quippe cum in te maxime situm sit prestantissimi juvenis, ducis Suthfolchie filii, potiundi perfruendique nobis potestatem facere. Cujus adolescenciam ita virtutum incunabulis doctrineque rudimentis hactenus instituisti, ut jam nunc in solidum virum evasisse videatur. Fatemur plane, reverende pater, hujus tam sapienter institute adolescencie primos tibi fructus optimo jure debere: sed ut Universitati nostre relique etatis fructus imparcias, tuam prestanciam iterum atque iterum rogamus, obsecramus atque obtestamur. Nihil, crede nobis, aut tuo nomini aut reipublice nostre gloriosius accidere possit. Quod si tandem illo preclarissimo adolescente perfrui dabitur, uberiores tibi morum et sciencie fructus in eo fenerabimus. Et feliciter vale, reverende pater ac nobilissime presul. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto Idus Octobris.* Tue dignitatis amantissimi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus.

291.

To the King.

That we enjoy your protection in these days of constant trouble to the Church, is in the highest degree advantageous both to our reputation and ease, and already the effect has been wonderful in every branch of study; so that you are now adding to the renown of your arms the glory of being a Christian king. And in the education you think it behoves you to

provide not only for your own illustrious children, but also for others nearly related to you, we see a farther proof of the respect you entertain for our studies; for it is plain that you desire them to be imbued with the same affection for us as that you feel yourself. But to have the education of your nephew, the Lord Edward Pole, intended for the active service of the priesthood in the militant Church, would be the most signal token of your peculiar favour. The Lord of lords and King of kings from all the nations of the world selected the Jews to be his people, and sent His only begotten Son to be incarnate of that chosen race: and in like manner you have made us, of all your realm, the particular object of your care; to whom then, rather than to ourselves, could you better commit the education of this adopted child of God? Grant us then, we pray, this great favour, and confirm the expectation your previous interest in us has raised in our hearts; and be assured that your own honour, no less than our prosperity, will feel the impulse. If, as we read, the Cesars reckoned painted statues in the heathen temples a means of securing the worthless glory of this world, how much more glorious will it be for you to have as it were a living likeness of yourself placed here in the capitol of virtue and knowledge, to the honour of the true God.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, Dei gracia regi Anglie et Francie, 1480.
Universitatis Oxoniensis protectori singularissimo, Cancellarius ejusdem universusque regencium cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Nunquam potuit, illustrissime princeps, preclarius aut commodius nobiscum agi, quam ut in his turbulentissimis quotidianisque fluctuantis ecclesie tempestatibus tuo potissimum patrocinio frueremur. Nam ut primum conservande Oxoniensis reipublice curam in te omnem recepisti, mirabile dictu est quantum Universitas nostra brevi coaluerit. Languescentes etenim antea discipline, et malicia temporis propemodum extincte, te duce respirare ac reviviscere, magisque ac magis indies instaurari atque resarciri videntur. Ita fit ut, qui pridem profligatis ingentissimis hostium copiis invictissimus princeps evaseris, hoc novo suscepte milicie genere Christianissimi regis nomen merito vindicare possis. Accedit aliud preterea non minimum pietatis erga nos argumentum, quod non alienum a tua dignitate putaveris tuos prestantissimos liberos, necnon alios preclaros adolescentes propinqua tibi cognacione conjunctos, litterarum studiis incumbere. Quorsum, optime rex, hec tua diligens instituendorum liberorum cura tendit, nisi ut illi eciam, exemplo tui, Universitatem nostram in posterum omni diligencia capessant? Sed quoniam ex his omnibus illum primarium juvenem, nepotem tuum, dominum Edwardum Pole[1] ea

[1] *Polee* MS.

lege disciplinis institui placet, ut omnem in ecclesia Christi miliciam exerceat, multo vehemencius de nobis benemereri videberis, si tam preclari adolescentis instituendi nobis aliquando potestas dabitur. Nec usquam, ni fallimur, aptius illum collocare possis quam in hoc nostro amplissimo gimnasio, cujus imprimis tu ipse, preter consuetudinem omnium regum, protector, dux atque administrator esse solus voluisti. Constat enim Regem regum, omnipotentem Deum, cum universi terrarum orbis monarchiam teneret, Israelitico tamen populo, utpote preter ceteros dilecto, peculiari quadam dicione presidere maluisse. Ideoque non ad quoscunque populos, sed ad electos Judeos, Unigenitum suum incarnandum misisse. Tu quoque, princeps humanissime, cum sis totius Britannie potitus imperio, tum quoniam nostre gentis peculiarem administracionem obtines, quibus tandem pocius ac nobis tuum hunc regeneracionis filium erudiendum committes? Eya ergo, Christiane fidei protector, fac, quesumus, ut quam nobis de te semper expectacionem concitasti, hoc preeunte[1] pignore confirmes; nosque tanti desiderii, quanto nunquam antea[2] quicquam contendimus, compotes facias, persuadeque tibi hoc munus amplissimum minime gratuitum fore, presertim ex quo non minor tibi glorie quam nobis utilitatis accessio futura sit. Si enim Romanis Cesaribus gloriosum erat pictas imagines in deorum falsorum templis pro inani querenda gloria fixas habuisse, quanto tibi gloriosius erit hunc nobilissimum adolescentem, veluti vivam tui splendoris imaginem,
Fol. 137 b. in hac celeberrima optimarum virtutum disciplinarumque arce ad Dei gloriam collocasse. Vale, strenuissime princeps, catholice propugnator ecclesie, et Universitatis nostre altera salus. *Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo, quinto Kalendas Novembris.*

Ihs[3]

292.

Episcopo Sarum:

The realization of our hopes was naturally a great pleasure to you, who have been the sole instrument of their accomplishment. From the first we have relied wholly upon your influence and aid, and owe you all our thanks for the happy result. In announcing your intention to visit Oxford, and in person lay this noble child in his mother's lap, we see another proof, though we needed it not, of your filial affection for us;

[1] Or perhaps *presente* MS. [2] A lacuna here in the MS. [3] This monogram is written three times; twice on the margin of this folio, once on the next.

and we pray that you will soon carry your proposal into effect; and, as another just and devout Simeon, in our temple here take the child in your arms, that we may behold the light prepared for us, to be the glory of our University.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Ricardo, divina providencia Sarum: episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Expectatissimi rerum nostrarum exitus non ab re magno tibi fuere gaudio, prestantissime presul. Nemo enim tam abjecti tamque nullius est animi, quem non sua preclara facta delectant. Et quid potuit abs te magis egregium effici, quam Universitati nostre regum nepotem asciscere? Istius namque preclari facinoris socium habes neminem: totum certe tuum est. Nec nos fallebat, cum primum ad te nostras daremus litteras, quantum in hac re tua semper valeret autoritas. Non enim ad alios quoscunque confugimus: in te uno spem omnem collocavimus, in te uno conquievimus, in te unum consilia nostra, curas omnes atque solicitudines contulimus. Ex quo fit ut majores tibi graciarum acciones a nobis merito debeantur. Quod autem scribis huc brevi affuturum, ut illum nobilem infantulum in matris sui gremium offeras, facis quidem abundancia quadam amoris ac pietatis, quantam etsi non requirimus tamen vehementer probamus. Eoque liberius hortabimur, ut quod tua sponte libenter facere statueris, nostro rogatu celeriter perficere non graveris. In quo sane illius justi ac timorati Simeonis perfunctus videberis officio, si vel in templo nostre Hierusalem oblatum tuis amplexibus excipias. Age igitur, reverende pater, ut te presentante videant oculi nostri paratum lumen ad gloriam plebis nostre. Vale, dignissime presul, ac nostre Universitatis amantissime. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto decimo Kalendas Novembres.* 1480.

Testimonial letter for Master John Foster.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem[1] in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit, ut honestissimos eorum labores honestissimis quidem premiis compensaremus. Invenimus quidem benemeritorum hominum laudes, nedum illis imo aliis plurimum profuisse, quippe cum eorum laudata virtus ceteros ad imitandum paratos effecerit. Considerantibus igitur nobis singulares atque egregias virtutes magistri Joannis ffoster, optimarum arcium magistri, 1480.

[1] *salutem* omitted and supplied on margin MS.

suamque ejus doctrinam non mediocribus vigiliis comparatam, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse bonarum arcium ultimis gradibus illum donare. Quibus adeptis ea gessit que ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que cum ejusmodi sint ut sunpte natura benevolencium facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis non immerito comprobantur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram beneuoli hominis commendacionem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras sui gradus testificatrices nostro sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo, nonodecimo Kalendas Januarias.*

Another testimonial letter for the same.

148a. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Inter cetera humanitatis officia hoc primum, ni fallimur, est officium ut optime studiosos matris nostre viros digno sui studii testimonio prosequamur: eo namque fit ut ceteri ad perdiscendas litteras copiosius invitentur. Quod cum etate nostra viderimus, nos, virtutum et sciencium augmentum cupientes, his litteris nostris attestamur, quod dilectus nobis in Christo magister, Joannes ffoster, Universitatis Oxoniensis optimarum arcium magister, ea apud nos vite ac morum probitate polluit, eamque liberalissimis disciplinis operam navavit, ut ne quidem unus inveniretur, qui non ejus plenam scienciam atque morum integritatem vehementer laudaret. Eo quippe factum est ut, rogatus multorum ad id illum incitancium precibus, reipublice nostre protector atque procurator efficeretur. Dignum idcirco nobis visum est ut optime meritarum laudum suarum testificacione non careat; cujus rei gracia, ut propterea uberiorem consequatur favorem, has litteras nostre Universitatis sigillo fecimus consignari. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo, nono decimo Kalendas Januarias.*

293.

Fol. 138 a. **Episcopo Eliensi.**

Whenever your name is mentioned among us, and it is so very often, we congratulate ourselves on the continued health of one whose singular virtue is an ornament to our country; one also to whom we, of this University, can always fly, and confidently repose in him our cares. Knowing, then, your readiness to do us service, we hope that we shall

without difficulty obtain from you the favour we now ask; which is that you will procure for us that your nephew, whose early training you entrusted to us, may receive at our hands the honour of the degrees of doctor, to which his rank and learning alike entitle him.

REVERENDISSIMO patri ac domino, domino Eliensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus cum omni reverencia sese commissos faciunt. Quociens, prestantissime presul, inter communicandum[1] de te sermonem facimus, facimus autem quam sepissime, nihil profecto est quod nos plus jocundos[2] efficiat quam tuam valetudinem non dubitare. Nec ab re quidem, cum solus sis, cujus singulares egregieque virtutes universam Brittaniam illustrant. Gaudemus profecto, neque mediocriter letamur matrem nostram, idque seculo nostro, talem enixam virum, ad quem cum privatis tum publicis suis malis confugere posset; ejusque gremio tentatas sepenumero hominum injurias quodam velut portu deponere. Nos idcirco quod in primis est, tuam erga nos ingenuam naturam intendentes animumque officii plenum, facile, ut speramus, abs te impetrabimus ut nepotem tuum, quem apud nos primos annos disciplinarum studiis consumere voluisti, nostris item Oxoniis procures. Hoc equidem et nobilitatis sue conditio et meritorum magnitudo postularunt, ut iisdem litterarum scienciis doctoratus gradibus [illum donaremus[3]], quibus jubente te incubuit, et quorum doctissimus evasit. Hoc est ipsum, amplissime presul, quod impresenciarum abs te petimus: atque ut beneficencie[4] tue consuetudo te nobis in hac re facilem efficiat vehementer oramus. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, humanissime presul. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, octodecimo Kalendas Januarias.* 1480.

294.

Episcopo Herefordensi.

The services you have rendered to the University are such that we know not how to express our gratitude. In these evil days learning, without which in ancient times a man was hardly deemed alive, is wellnigh extinct; so that we can but interpret your patronage of deserving graduates as a desire to revive the old studies. In this we recognize the gratitude of an affectionate son mindful of his mother's nursing love; and, with our thanks, express our hope that you will continue to be our friend.

[1] *intercominicandum* MS. [2] *jucundos* ib. [3] *illum donaremus*; these words are supplied on the margin; there is a blank in the MS., where they should occur. [4] *beneficiencie* MS.

1480. AMPLISSIMO domino, domino Herefordensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum in eadem regencium sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Ita de nobis meritus es, doctissime presul, ut quas tibi graciarum acciones agere debeamus penitus dubitemus. Nos equidem his temporibus nati sumus, quibus sciencie malicia temporum jam pene extincte sunt, quas quidem antiquo seculo qui non haberet quasi invisa mortis imago habitus est. Non videmus profecto quorsum tua tendat prestans atque singularis omnium benemeritorum dileccio, nisi ut mortuas jam pene disciplinas reviviscere cures. Certa res est: idipsum est cura tua. Facis quidem velut amantissimus matris tue filius, non oblitus dulcedinis quam de ejus uberibus traxisti. Nosque ejus, indigni licet, filii gracias secundum virium nostrarum parvitatem agimus, rogantes quatenus eundem te erga nos semper experiamur, quem hactenus fuisse res ipsa satis demonstravit. Nosque tuos ubi voles semper persuade. Vale, doctissime presul. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, octodecimo Idus Januarias.*

295.

To J. Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury.

When Socrates rejoiced that he was born a Greek and not a barbarian, he was not more sincerely glad than we are that you, so distinguished above all her sons, received your education in this University. The great reputation you enjoy, in which you have few equals and few superiors, is enhanced by the memory, ever fresh with us, of the great services rendered to our commonwealth by your uncle the Cardinal. There is, then, good reason that we should do all we can to retain your affection, and we beg that you will accept at our hands the degrees we confer upon you as an ornament to your dignity.

1480. PRESTANTISSIMO viro, domino Johanni Bourgchier, Cantuariensi Archiepiscopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dant. Non est constans ille Socrates sibimet amplius gavisus, quod non barbarum sed Grecum nasci contigerat, quam nos quod mater nostra te pepererit; quippe cum te unum, et nobilitatis tue condicione et meritorum magnitudine, universos jam pene matris nostre filios antecelluisse plane videamus. Ita vir es ut pares paucos, paucos eciam habeas superiores. Accedit eciam ad hoc illud alterum, nunquam te ore tractamus nostro, quin primatis nostri prestantissimi avunculique tui, cardinalis Archipresulisque dignissimi memoriam faciamus. Cujus et in augenda et tuenda

republica tanta fuerunt preclara facinora, ut ne illud quidem nomini suo immortalitatem parturum quispiam dubitet. Que cum sint, nos, **Fol. 138 b.** debemus enim id, omnia studia nostra ultimasque curas nostras in te consumemus; ne te, quem scimus crebritate officiorum matrem nostram illustrem effecturum, careamus. Velis igitur parentem tuam ad te pio affectu jugiter clamantem exaudire; que ut te fruatur, teque semper presentem habeat in oculis, gradus tuos ultima ornamenta sua ad te mittit. Eja igitur, ut illam hactenus subtristem immortali compleas gaudio; nosque, ejus inferiores filii, de stipite nostro evasisse te justa racione letemur. Et semper valeas, dignissime vir. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, tercio decimo Kalendas Februarias.*

296.

To the Bishop of Salisbury.

Your constant good offices are more than we can repay, and we most heartily rejoice at your exalted position, by which alone without your noble birth you stand superior to all other distinguished men of these days. We know that you desire our prosperity, but you can hardly imagine how great has lately been our anxiety. You say (to quote the words of your elegant epistle) 'it shall not be long before I come to lay that noble child in his mother's lap;' but we are weary with longing for your arrival, and our old troubles seem to break out afresh. No greater honour could be done to us than to place the King's nephew Edward Pole in our charge, and your own name will at the same time be made immortal.

Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, divina providencia Sarum: **1480.** episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Indies ita te de nobis mereri videmus, ut quam possumus facile plus debeamus. Nos idcirco, qui virtutem tuam pendimus semperque pendemus, nulla unquam, Deum testamur, re magis gaudemus, quam quod neminem, etiam conditionis gradu, habeas superiorem. Hac equidem, ut omittamus nobilitatem, vincis viros optimos, quos illustres quidem satis peperit etas nostra, qui neque tempus remittis, neque ullis unquam parcis laboribus. Facile igitur in his pre te fers quantum nos valere cupias; vincit tamen communem hominum opinionem quantis tum spe tum metu percutimur atque frangimur. Atque ut istuc rei, que nos ita perturbat, intelligas, aperte loquamur necesse est. Perlectis litteris tuis, quas elegantes certe satis ad nos portari feceras, talem, placuit enim plurimum, sentenciam memoriter tenuimus '*veniemus non*

diu tardantes, prenobilem illum infantulum in sue matris gremium oblaturi.' Non enim hec tua pollicitacio uberiori nos affecit leticia, quam crastinata et tui et ejus expectacio dolore percusserit. Mala quippe nostra, que antea consenuisse nobis videbantur, hac ista invisa, fatemur, mora recrudescunt, animusque noster novo metu obduruit. Nihil idcirco preclarius abs te effici posse putamus, quam si infantem illum mansuetissimum, nepotem regium, dominum Edwardum Poole, quem primitivis litteris instructissimum constantissimorum accepimus testimonio, nostris jam Oxoniis liberalibus imbuendum studiis procures. Quod si facturum te receperis, nostram rempublicam tanto munere efficies immortalem, idque nomen tibi comparabis quod nulla temporis vetustate consumetur. Ut itaque hoc facias, idque quamprimum, eciam atque eciam rogamus. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, amplissime presul. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, decimo die mensis Februarii.*

Testimonial letter for Master Richard Archebold.

1480. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum semper cura fuit ut honestissimos eorum labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensaremus: eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere et ceteros ad imitandum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus itaque nobis magnas et egregias virtutes dilectissimi confratris nostri, magistri Ricardi Archebold, ingentem preterea in theologico studio doctrinam non mediocribus laboribus atque vigiliis comparatam, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimis primum bachillarii gradibus tandem doctoratus gradibus illum donare. Quibus adeptis eas res pro virili sua parte gessit, que ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que, cum hujusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolenciam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendacionem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras nostre Universitatis sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo.*

297.

To the Bishop of Salisbury. Fol. 139 a.

Though we had been ignorant of it before, the account given us, by the bearer of our last letter to you, would have sufficiently proved your true affection for us; for he tells us your chief care is for our welfare: but when he bids us expect you in person, bringing the child we so greatly desire, and reports that you intend yourself to deliver lectures here, we can hardly restrain our joy, and our admiration of your discharge of your official duties. Of course your wishes with respect to Masters Richard Andrew and Stephen Browne were no sooner known than granted; as indeed would have been a much greater demand had it been preferred.

AMPLISSIMO domino dominoque singularissimo, divina providencia 1480.
Sarum: episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Tametsi, prestantissime presul, ingentissimam tuam erga nos pietatem satis antehac perspectam non habuissemus, plenissimam tamen amoris tui abundanciam ex ultimo litterarum nostrarum tabellione luce clarius videre potuimus; quippe cum, ut ait, omnes curas tuas rebus nostris accommodas. Quod autem te matrem tuam Oxoniam visurum, desideratissimum infantem ducturum, dignissimi etiam gradus tui cathedram lecturis decoraturum narras, satis profecto ut ne quidem infimum hominum cerebrum tuam perspectissimam in nos benevolenciam dubitare posset. Non erat certe, tecum existima, qui tuo humanissimo audito responso pre gaudio gestire non videretur; teque prestantissimum in rempublicam presulem diceret, atque illum cujus merita superant omnem nostram retribuendi facultatem. Ut tamen significaremus propensam animi nostri in te magnitudinem, audita primum incorporatione magistri Ricardi Andrew, deinde Stephani Browne in artibus licentiatione abs te desideratis, nemo erat, qui non, idque lubens, tue morem gereret voluntati; gessissetque eciam si rem longe grandiorem tua mandasset paternitas[1]. Festina ergo, desideratissime pater, et te, cujus frontem omnis etas videre desiderat, nobis ostende. Et semper valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, meritissime presul. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto nonas Marcias.*

[1] *tua* repeated MS.

Acquittance of Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London.

Noverint universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Wydevill, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Nicholaum Halswell, Joannem Marten, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, cetumque unanimem regentium recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de venerabili viro domino Kempe, Londoniensi episcopo, centum marcas sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie: De quibus quidem centum marcis fatemur nos[1] fore solutos, dictumque venerabilem virum, dominum Thomam Kempe, inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, secundo die mensis Marcii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo.*

Another, to supersede the foregoing[2].

Noverint universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Wydevyll, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Nicholaum Halswell et Joannem Mertene, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, habuisse et recepisse, die confectionis presencium, de reverendo in Christo patre ac domino, domino Thoma Kempe, divina providencia Londoniensi episcopo centum marcas, in partem solutionis cujusdam[3] majoris summe mille marcarum, per eundem reverendum patrem ad perfectionem operis scholarum theologie, Universitati collatarum: De quibus quidem centum marcis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque reverendum patrem, dominum Thomam Kempe, inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, duodecimo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.*

298.

Fol. 139 b.

To the King.

Nothing would so distress us as to think we had offended your Majesty; for it is to your protection we owe the present peaceful pursuit of those studies that have been so long buried in oblivion. We had not heard of your intention to write to us, and we did not hurry the election, but, after the ordinary statutable notice, gave the vacant bedel's place to one who has already served us forty years. So did God place a tried

[1] *nobis* MS. [2] The preceding acquittance is marked *vacat* on the margin.
[3] *cujusdam solutionis* ib.

and prudent servant over His household. We implore you to believe that we would not do anything against your wishes; but shall be ever ready to serve you to the best of our humble ability.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, clarissimoque Anglie et Francie regi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, etiam universus in eadem regentium cetus, sese cum omni et subjectione et reverentia commissos faciunt. Nihil unquam, prudentissime princeps, nostros animos acerbius pertubare potuerit, quam si tuam, quod longe sit a nobis, in minima etiam re majestatem offenderimus; quippe cum, tua protectione freti, incognitis atque jam pene mortuis litteris ocio quietissime vacare possimus. Non ergo sine perturbatissimis animis tuas, metuendissime princeps, litteras perlegimus, in quibus scriptum invenimus tue majestati persuasum esse id quod nos quidem ne unquam fecimus vel etiam cogitavimus. Non enim vel abs te, prestantissime princeps, litteras profecturas fama cognovimus, aut electionis nostre diem prevenimus. Nam prope crepusculum dominice noctis, mortuo Roberto Wryte, superiore facultatis legum bedello, facte sunt ad tres dies, sicut statutum est, per scolas proclamaciones. Quarto autem die ad electionem pacifice est processum, in qua ad quadraginta annorum terminum nobis diligenter servientem, Joannem Harrys, hoc officio remuneravimus; exemplo Dei ducti, qui servum prudentem et probatum constituit supra familiam suam. Te ergo oramus, excelse princeps, ne nos unquam ulla in re tuis discretissimis votis contrãituros existimes; qui, quantum nostra valet imbecillitas, paratissime semper tibi debebimus. Et vale, strenuissime princeps, Universitatisque nostre protector unice [1]. 1481.

299.

To the Bishop of Ely.

The readiness of your disposition to do all acts of kindness encourages us to ask you to use your powerful influence with the King, in showing him that we are not chargeable with the offence laid to our charge; but, on the contrary, that the legal forms were duly observed in the election of the bedel. We are innocent and can prove it; but the trouble and expense will be great; we beg, therefore, that you will speak for us with the King and relieve at once our apprehensions and our purse.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, divina providentia Eliensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos 1481.

[1] This and the four following letters are without date.

faciunt. Prestans natura tua, instructissime presul, ad benemerendum semper parata nos [1] facit ausos confidenter ad te scribere, teque rogare ut, quum plurimum tua valet auctoritas, regie majestati nostram innocenciam persuadeas; qui, licet in multis accusamur, in nullo tamen, Deum testamur, offendimus. Fuere enim, qui regie majestati persuasum ire curaverunt, nos ad superioris facultatis legum bedelli eleccionem ante legitimas factas proclamaciones processisse: quos tametsi nostra defendere possit innocencia, contraria eciam facti evidencia; non tamen id sine gravibus tum curis tum Universitatis nostre impensis facere valebimus. Tuam ergo prestanciam oratam habebimus, quatenus regie majestati rem aperias; nosque ab his, que nobis falso certe imposita sunt, tuearis. Quod si te facturum receperis, Universitati nostre primum graves, quas passura est, levabis impensas, animos deinde nostros his perturbacionibus commotos efficies quietissimos. Ut itaque nostras impresentiarum preces exaudias, vehementer oramus. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, prudentissime presul.

300.

Fol. 140 a.

To the Bishop of Rochester.

When we see our enemies ready to 'eat us up,' and they are so more often than we could wish, we are thankful that this our mother, the University, has borne sons like you, in whose bosom we may lay our cares, our labours, and our plans. You have great influence with the King; we beg therefore that you will take our part and show him that we are falsely accused in the matter of the election of our bedel, for all the due forms were observed.

1481. Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, divina providencia Roffensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum in eadem regentium sese cum omni reverencia commissos faciunt. Quociens, prestantissime presul, edaces emulos nos habere videmus, videmus enim plus quam cupimus, gratulamur matrem nostram te tuique similes peperisse, in quorum gremiis curas, labores, consilia etiam nostra deponere valeamus. Te ergo impresenciarum, humanissime presul, rogamus ut injustas accusaciones nostras tuendas capessas. Facies profecto in nos maximum pietatis officium, si id curabis; atque ut tibi latius aperiamus quid est, quod [2] abs te tantopere petimus, nunciamus tibi mortem Roberti Wryte superioris facultatis legum bedelli; qui cum diem obiisset suum, non defuerunt qui

[1] *non* MS. [2] *quo* ib.

nos regie majestati accusatos facerent, quod diem licite electionis preveniremus. Quod cum non fecerimus, nostram tibi in hac parte innocentiam commendamus, teque nos regie majestati, vales enim apud illum, excusatos facere rogamus. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, amplissime presul.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Wydevyl, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Nicholaum Halswell et Joannem Merten, procuratores Universitatis antedicte recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati debitorum: De quibus quidem fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo die mensis Maii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.* **1481.**

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Wydevyl, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Nicholaum Halswell et Joannem Merten, procuratores Universitatis antedicte recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro quadam pensione annua Universitati debita, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo Universitatis communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo die mensis Maii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.* **1481.**

301.

To the King. **Fol. 140 b.**

The benefits you have conferred upon us will surely make this University immortal, and the rapid development it has shown under your protection is surprising. You have before sent us men of distinguished birth, and now, to our great comfort, these noble youths, illustrious by their talents no less than by their rank. We congratulate ourselves that our lot is cast in the reign of a king, under the defence of whose right hand we fear no evil and are disturbed by no adversity. In addition to all your previous goodness we hear from the bishop of Salisbury that you

have endowed a chantry, and given the appointment to the office, whenever vacant, to the University: for which, as for all your works done for the glory of God, we offer our humble thanks; and, in nominating for the place Master John Taylour, we beg that you will suffer him to reside, during the three terms, at Oxford, that he may be able to continue his lectures in the Scriptures, and afford to all the profitable example of his saintly life and conversation.

1481. CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, illustrissimoque Anglie et Francie regi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni subjectione et reverentia commissos faciunt. Tanta sunt, prudentissime princeps, tue erga nos pietatis officia, ut rempublicam nostram immortalem ex his effici nemo dubitet. Facile certe dictu non est quantum sub tua potentissima protectione nostra brevi creverit Universitas, qui inconsueto regum more illam regendam suscepisti. Quam etsi benemeritis antehac quidem viris genere etiam claris ditaveris, nunc tamen juvenes dominos, et sanguine et litteris dignissimos, Universitatis tue solacium singulare, superaddidisti. Letamur ergo nos eo seculo natos, quod tantum tanteque pietatis principem et Universitatis nostre protectorem pepererit, quos tua dextra defensos nulla ledit hostilitas, nulla inquietat perturbatio aut ulla perturbat adversitas. Nec hec quidem, maxima enim sunt, in nos fecisse satis reputas, qui, sicut ex reverendo in Christo patre, Sarum: episcopo, accepimus, inter cetera opera tua Deo digna, cantariam perpetuam potenter indotatam erexisti; Universitatemque tuam, quociens vacaverit, illam erudito theologo conferre debere decrevisti. Nos, audito[1] devotissimo animo tuo, magistrum Joannem Taylour, sacre theologie professorem, ad predictam a te fundatam cantariam nominavimus; pro his omnibus humillimas gratiarum actiones agentes, teque suppliciter orantes, ut, quoniam sua in theologicis doctrina, sancta preterea vite conversatio Universitati tue hucusque profuit, et, ut speratur, profutura est, illum eo pacto nobis subtrahas, ut possit in tribus anni terminis occultas scripture sententias studentibus tuis notas facere. Et vale, strenuissime princeps, Universitatis nostre protector singularissime. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, &c.*

302.

To the Bishop of Salisbury.

The daily and manifold instances of your beneficence to us cannot be dealt with in epistolary form; they need volumes to record them, that,

[1] *audita* MS.

when we have departed this life, those that come after may tell how there never was a prelate so good to us as you have been. You promised to give us the sun, and you have given us the moon also; our hopes and fears are now ended by certainty. It was, we are informed, by your influence that the King gave the nomination to his chantry to us, on condition that we should always appoint a graduate in theology. We commend to you our nominee, Master John Taylour, whom we deem most worthy of the place; and we specially beg of you that you will, if you possibly can, obtain for us the condition that the holder of the appointment may always be allowed to reside three terms in Oxford, for the purpose of lecturing in theology.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, divina providentia Sarum: 1481.
episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Tam multiplicata sunt, prestantissime presul, tamque indies aucta in nos beneficiorum tuorum incrementa, ut non epistolarum genere sed ingenti potius librorum volumine ea scribi conveniat. Eo namque pacto obeuntibus nobis vivent opera tua, nepotibusque nostris coram loquentur, quantum in rempublicam nos presulem habuerimus, quo certe majorem nos nunquam habuimus, aut patres etiam nostros habuisse legimus. Spondebas equidem nobis solem, nec fraudasti nos: et ne unquam deficeret lux nostra, soli lunam addidisti: nosque tum spe tum metu hactenus percussos certitudine perfecisti. Accedit etiam ad immortalia tua erga rempublicam merita illud, quod ex superiorum litterarum tuarum tabellione accepimus; qui te regiam majestatem ita inclinasse nobis apparuit[1] ut ubi cantariam fundaverit, ejus collationem Universitati conferri dignaretur; eo tamen pacto, ut theologico studio professum illi semper preferremus. Nos idcirco magistrum Johannem Taylour, sacre theologie professorem, nostra certe sententia dignissimum, ad eandem nominatum tibi commendamus. Teque apprime rogatum facimus, ut, si tua industria fieri possit, hanc cantarie illi naturam imponi facias, quod si secuturis temporibus illa utetur, possit etiam ad tres anni terminos studio vacare. Nec mireris, si id tibi scripserimus, prestantissime presul; cum hunc ad aliorum profectum in theologicis studentium tam necessarium habeamus, ut ne illius quidem doctrina sine maximo nostro dispendio carere possimus. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, meritissime presul. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo.*

[1] *aperuit?*

Fol. 141 a. **Testimonial letter for Master Philipp Putsam.**

1481. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum semper cura fuit honestissimos labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare. Considerantibus itaque nobis magnas et egregias virtutes confratris nostri, magistri Philippi Putsam, ingentem preterea tum in artibus tum in jure canonico doctrinam non mediocribus vigiliis comparatam, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimis primum baccallarii artium, inde juris canonici, tandem artium magistri gradibus illum donare. Nec id fecisse sat nobis visum est, quin suis id exigentibus meritis etiam ad opponendum in sacra theologia eundem licentiaremus. Quibus adeptis eas denique res pro virili sua parte gessit, que et ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que cum hujusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolentiam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo primo, sexto die mensis Junii.*

303.

To T. Kempe, Bishop of London.

The great benevolence you have ever exhibited towards us would ensure your completion of the building you have undertaken, and it is not necessary that we should write to ask you to do so. Yours is a happy lot, for your well-merited praises are loudly sung; while your work speaks for itself in the present, and in the future will stimulate others to like efforts. We greatly desire your presence here that you might behold the busy labours of your workmen. Industrious as bees, some carry the stones, others polish them, some carve out the statues, others place them in their niches. The work is worthy of its object, and to think of it will be a source of happiness to you hereafter.

1481. REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Thome, divina providentia Londoniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Etsi, prestantissime presul, tanta est vis tue erga nos

benevolentie, tante etiam erga rempublicam pietatis observantia ut, etiam sine litteris nostris, quod sancte tecum decreveris perficere velis, nostre tamen partis esse videtur pro immortali beneficio tuo tibi gratias agere. Nemo certe nostra sententia te vivit felicius, pro quo, sic meritum est tuum, psallunt vive voces, et res ipsa intercedere non[1] dubitatur. Accedit etiam ad augmentum futuri tui meriti, quod his, qui—pace eorum dictum sit—dormierant, ad benemerendum animos acueris. Quod si enim aliunde incommodum id tibi non esset, facile creditu non est quantum tuam optaremus presentiam, ut pleniore operum tuorum solacio uti posses. Non enim alius est, dum liquida mella constipant, apum labor, quam est operantium tuorum. Alii vehendis saxis, alii jam vectis poliendis, pars sculpendis imaginibus, pars jam formatas imagines arcualiter situando mirifice conantur. Opus est certe Deo dignum, nec tibi justior possit esse letitie occasio, quam te illius auctorem meminisse. Perge ergo, et fac ut opus imperfectum, quod optimis, ut speratur, auguriis incepisti, non nisi perfectissimum relinquas. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, magnifice presul. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, &c.*

Acquittance of T. Kempe, Bishop of London.

Two hundred marks received.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Wydevil, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Willelmum Portar, Radulphum Hampsterley, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de reverendo in Christo patre et domino, domino Thoma Kempe, Londoniensi episcopo, ducentas marcas in partem solutionis cujusdam majoris summe mille marcarum, per eundem venerabilem patrem ad perfectionem operis scolarum theologie Universitati collatarum: De quibus ducentis marcis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque reverendum patrem, dominum Thomam Kempe, inde acquietamus per presentes nostro communi sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, quarto die mensis Junii, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.* 1481.

304[2].

To the Bishop of Salisbury. Fol. 141 b.

No greater service is in the power of man to render than that you have rendered us. Not only we, but people everywhere speak of your watchful

[1] *videtur non dubitatur: videtur* dotted beneath, as redundant, MS. [2] No address to this letter, but it is plainly to the Bishop of Salisbury; see Epist. 302.

care of our interests, your intercession for us with the King, your attention to our private affairs. Master Taylour has reported to us how you have made our cause your own, and we perceive that it is in consequence of your advocacy, by correspondence and otherwise, that one so valuable to us is to be allowed still to reside in the University.

1481. EXPERTAM adeo pietatem tuam habemus, magnificentissime presul, ut majorem aut prestari a te aut postulari a nobis non posse sciamus. Non enim accepimus quid preclarius ab homine fieri posset, quod a te pretermissum sit. De republica primum quantum merueris, preter nos et res et vulgus coram loquitur: cujus tot fuerint vigilie, tot regie majestati facte instantie, tot tandem cure in re privata feceris. Quantamque humanitatem studentibus Universitatis tue nuper ostenderis, ex verbo magistri Joannis Taylour accepimus, cujus res ita traxisti, quasi rem tuam curasses. Non enim tecum existima sine letissimis animis audivimus tantum presulem curare litteras regie majestati dirigendas. Id enim etsi aliunde non intellexissemus, probatum satis tui in nos amoris argumentum declarasset. Per te certe factum esse nemo dubitabit ut largius quam postulabat beneficium acciperet hoc uno beneficio. Utrasque res curabas, publicam quod, sicut te rogavit Universitas tua, hominem nobis necessarium remisisti; privatam quod illum tuis doctissimis litteris ditari curasti. Pro quo nemo qui, quantum valeat, tantum se tue debere dominationi non profiteatur. Valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, magnifice presul, Universitatisque nostre amator singularissime.

Public exculpation of executors.

It is everyone's duty, and ours especially, to defend the innocent from slander. We, therefore, hereby declare that the Chancellor's register proves that our brethren (herein named) declined to act as executors of master N. Hyenson; and that it was only at the urgent request of the Chancellor, that they, in consequence of his inability to attend to the business, consented to undertake the office. And, further, we certify that their character is, to our knowledge, above suspicion of any dishonesty.

1481. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium cetus salutem in omnium Salvatore. Cum sit pium innocentes ab injuriis tueri, idque ad nos potissimum spectet, qui litterarum studia profitemur; nos idcirco causam confratrum nostrorum, magistri Roberti Wrangwich, expeditissimi sacre theologie professoris, et magistri Joannis Coldale, ejusdem professionis bachalarii, omni veritatis testimonio capessendam atque prosequendam duximus. Per has igitur litteras

nostras profitemur et attestamur, quod, inspecto et perlecto registro domini Cancellarii, invenimus predictos confratres nostros, magistri Nicholai Hyensone executores deputatos, onus hujusmodi executionis non admisisse: ipsosque etiam rogatos labores omnino recusasse executionis; multis tamen instanciis domini Cancellarii, aliis negotiis impediti, ductos, ejusdem magistri bona, juxta ipsius ultimam voluntatem administranda, recepisse. Eos praeterea his moribus eaque vite conditione atque morum integritate apud nos dies consumpsisse expertum habemus, ut conscientias suas violaturos nemo illos existimet. Cupientes ergo aliis nudam primum veritatem, postinde insontem eorum dispositionem facilius persuaderi posse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo tertio die mensis Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo [octogesimo*[1]*] primo.*

Testimonial letter for Master John Portyngale.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum semper cura fuit honestissimos eorum labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare. Considerantibus igitur nobis magnas et egregias virtutes confratris nostri, magistri Joannis Portyngale, non mediocribus laboribus atque vigiliis comparatas[2], visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimis, primum bacallarii, deinde in artibus magistri, gradibus[3] illum donare. Ea denique his gradibus adeptis pro virili sua parte gessit, que ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que cum hujusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolentiam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo primo, vicesimo septimo die mensis Junii.* 1481. Fol. 142 a.

Testimonial letter for Master John Wyttefyld.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, &c. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum semper cura fuit honestissimos eorum labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, hones- 1481.

[1] omitted in MS. [2] *comparatam* MS. [3] *gradibus* repeated ib.

tissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare; eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere, et alios ad proficiendum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus igitur nobis magnas et egregias virtutes confratris nostri, magistri Joannis Wyttefyld, ingentemque in theologico studio doctrinam, non mediocribus vigiliis comparatam, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimis, primum bacallarii, tandem in eodem doctoris, gradibus illum donare. Quibus adeptis eas denique res gessit, que ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Cupientes[1] igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo primo, quarto die mensis Julii.*

Citation of Master John Brertone.

You are hereby summoned, once, twice, thrice, and peremptorily, to appear before us in S. Mary's Church, and render account, as your oath binds you to do, of your management of the Danvers Chest.

1481. Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, necnon ejusdem procuratores cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem magistro Johanni Brertone. Tenore presentium nos citamus te, primo, secundo et tertio, ac peremptorie mandamus quod coram nobis personaliter compareas in domo congregationis in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis, ad faciendum compotum et rationem ciste de Danvers, ad quod vinculo juramenti te noveris astrictum. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, sub sigillo nostro communi, sexto die mensis Julii.*

Acquittance of Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London.

One hundred marks received.

1481. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Wydewil, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Willelmum Porter, Radulphum Hampsterley, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presencium, a reverendo in Christo patre ac domino, Thoma Kempe, divina providencia Londoniensi episcopo, centum marcas in partem solucionis mille marcarum: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque reverendum patrem inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo communi nostro signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, duodecimo die Octobris anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.*

[1] *Igitur cupientes igitur* MS.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey. Fol. 142 b.

UNDEVICESIMO die Decembris, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo, sigillate sunt acquietancie Abbati de Eynsham pro sedecim solidis debitis Universitati. 1481.

A letter written to the Chancellor.

TERTIO decimo die mensis Decembris, sigillate sunt littere domino Leonello Wydevil, Cancellario Universitatis Oxoniensis. 1481.

Acquittance of Master Thomas Brow.

VICESIMO secundo die mensis Januarii, sigillate sunt acquietancie magistro Brow. 1482.

Testimonial letter for Master John Bourton.

EODEM die, sigillate sunt littere testimoniales magistro Joanni Bourton. 1482.

A letter written to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

QUINTODECIMO die mensis Februarii, sigillate sunt littere domino archiepiscopo Cantuariensi. 1482.

305.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury[1].

All, who hear a favourable report of your health, and we especially, rejoice greatly, for the great honour you have attained derived its source from this University. We have heard from our predecessors in this place what hopes your early years inspired that you would prove a valiant champion of the Church; and now we behold these expectations more than fulfilled, in the energy and gravity, the prudence and justice of your life and character. These are qualities in themselves admirable, and, when exercised in the service of the state, merit more than human praise. Here we have hitherto experienced the advantage of your favour, and we hope that the future will bring a confirmation of the rumour we hear of your benevolent intentions with regard to us.

REVERENDO, &c. valetudinem tuam, pater prestantissime, nemo audit —audivimus nuper omnes—qui non vehementer exultet atque gaudeat. Quam cum omnes universe Britannie inhabitatores—sic enim de singulis meritus es—avidissime cupiant, quanto magis nos, a quibus tantus omnium terrarum et nationum splendor plane profectus est, ea 1482.

[1] No title or address in MS.

congaudere debebimus? Referunt enim majores nostri quanta refellendarum ab ecclesia injuriarum, dum adhuc primam Oxoniis ageres etatem, spes in te fuit; quanta tuendarum libertatum expectatio, quanta commendatio liberalitatis tue, quam splendida denique omnium de te fuerit cogitatio. Hoc illi quidem tantummodo[1] conjectura quadam—videbant enim argumenta probitatis tue—dixerunt: nos vero hoc ipsum expressis argumentis quotidie et videmus et non sine gaudio probamus. Vincunt enim tua erga nos officia cogitationes eorum, nec illustriora abs te profectura esse sperabatur quam re ipsa profecta sunt. Quotiens enim quieto ocio majorum nostrorum res gestas legimus—legimus enim pene quotidie—eorumque rebus gestis tuas conferimus, id non sine admiratione facimus. Nescimus hercle utrum tua in republica diligentia an gravitas, prudentia an equitas, majori laude digna inveniatur: cum hec omnia in te ita sunt egregia atque perfecta, ut quod alteri preferendum sit non facile videatur. Que omnia tametsi suapte natura magni habenda sint, ipsa tamen summa in rempublicam observantia, si Platoni creditur, ceteris prestat. Qui enim in rempublicam beneficia contulerint, non humana sed divina potius laude celebrantur; quippe cum non sue tantum amplitudini ac glorie consulant[2], sed publice utilitati ac saluti inserviant. Hec est illa virtus insignissima, que mortuum mori non permittit: qua licet plenissime erga rempublicam nostram usus es, nunc tamen iterum plus velle, referente fama, cognovimus. Quod ut facias vehementer rogamus; facies enim non modo ut nos sentiamus, sed etiam ut omnis posteritas, quanto amore rempublicam nostram complexus fueris, apertissime intelligat: eritque id monimentum sempiterne erga nos pietatis tue, cujus magnitudo non injuria tanto illustrior atque clarior estimanda erit, quod ceteris imitandi tui exemplum prebueris. Et optime valeat tua prestantia, reverendissime pater ac domine singularissime. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, quinto decimo die mensis Februarii.*

306.

Fol. 143 a.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

In these troublous times, when even those, who ought to be our friends, often turn against us, we are not without comfort, nor have our fortunes sunk so low as to leave no source of consolation. We often think that you came into the world to relieve the afflicted, such has been your solicitude both for our public and internal interests, defending us against the accusations of our enemies, under which, but for your help, we must have

[1] *tantomodo* MS. [2] *consultant* ib.

succumbed, and, as everyone knows, making the private misfortunes of individuals your special care. For such services as these no less gratitude is due than to one, who, if he has not founded, has, like Camillus, restored a ruined state.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Joanni, divina providentia Lincolniensi episcopo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverencia ac subjeccione commissos faciunt. Tametsi his perturbatissimis temporibus nati sumus, ut perditissimos hominum mores, eciam eorum qui nos juvare deberent, sepenumero experiamur, tamen de quo gaudeamus habemus, ita ut suam quisque conditionem miserrimam putet. Nec tam afflicta est omnique spe salutis orbata fortuna nostra [1], ut nullus consolacioni locus reliquus sit. Nam quociens, humanissime presul, te ad memoriam vocamus—id est certe frequenter—hominem ad levandas afflictorum injurias te natum credimus: qui cum res nostras, cum privatas tum publicas, diligentius curaret, nec unquam habuimus aut nepotes nostros conjectura quidem habituros putamus. Sunt enim talia tua erga nos officia, ut ne his majora quidem vel abs te prestari vel a nobis postulari queant. Primum quidem quantum res publica nostra tibi debeat, que, cum accusantium injuriis pene fracta atque lacessita squalesceret, per te frequenter defensa est, nec ipsa quidem, si mille linguas haberet, signare posset. Sane ita de ea meritus es, ut si ab ipsis primis fundatoribus discedat, cui plus debeat habeat neminem. Quantum preterea privatorum hominum res tibi cure fuerunt, nemo est qui [2] nesciat. Quis enim, cum ultimos tam commodos ordines celebrari—celebrabantur enim in foribus—feceras, et laboris et paupertatis multorum racionem te habuisse apertissime non intelligat? Quorsum isthec tendunt, presul magnificentissime, nisi ut nos tibi carissimos esse demonstres? Nos idcirco tantas pro his tibi debere gracias profitemur, quantas Romulo Camilloque debet longa Romanorum posteritas; quorum alter urbem Romam primus extruxit, alter postea pene delapsam primus restauravit. Teque ut eundem te nobis prestes apprime rogamus. Et valeat tua prestantissima paternitas, doctissime presul. *Datum secundo die mensis Marcii.* 1482.

Acquittance of Thomas Kempe, Bishop of London.

One hundred marks received.

OCTODECIMO die mensis Marcii, sigillate sunt acquietancie episcopo Londoniensi pro centum marcis. 1482.

[1] *fortuna nostra*: these words are repeated in the MS. [2] *quis* ib.

307.

To the King.

There have been many proofs of your regard for this University, not the least of which was your unsolicited resolve to be our protector. Nor was this an empty title, for you have both defended and befriended us. We speak not of the worship of God and the Saints; we pass over the beautiful buildings erected by you in divers parts of your realm to the glory of God; and we say nothing of the honour you have done us in entrusting us with the education of the lord Edward Pole, your nephew, a youth endowed by nature with the highest gifts of intellect and heart: These are indeed signal instances of your goodness, but you have crowned them all by founding among us a free lecture in theology, than which no greater service could be rendered to the study of that subject; as we may perceive from the marvellous increase of the number of students in that faculty, an increase no less than a new life. Time can never obliterate the memory of this charity, but, with your permission, we shall use a special collect for you in the mass at commencement of the term in October every year for ever.

1480. CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, &c. Multa sunt, illustrissime princeps, que quanto amore Universitatem tuam complexus fueris apertissime demonstrant; ex quibus illud infimum esse non videtur, quod preter superiorum regum exempla illius te futurum protectorem tua sponte decreveris. Nec frustra sane protectoris nomen recepisti, qui ab intentatis hominum injuriis non magis illam defenderis quam beneficiis auxeris. Tacemus Dei et sanctorum cultum, cujus tu semper ab immatura etate observantissimus fuisti. Politissima opera tua in diversis regni tui partibus, fabrica mirabili propositoque mirabiliori ad Dei gloriam mirifice erecta, non loquimur. Respublica nostra est, que si mille voces haberet, quantum tibi debet dicere non posset. Omittimus quod dominum Edwardum Poole, nepotem tuum, Universitati tue, ad non mediocre illius ornamentum, illic transmiseris; juvenem certe ingenio acri, facundo et splendido, ita ut illius ingenio natura nihil docibilius, nihil acutius, nihil feracius protulerit. Ita equidem audit, et audita profert eloquenter, ut divino quodam afflatus numine judicari valeat. Nunquam sane splendidam ipsius naturam recensemus, quin cogitatione ipsa exsilire gestireque videamur. Hec tametsi magna sunt efficaxque tui in nos[1] argumentum esse potuerint, Christianissime tamen intencioni tue nunquam satisfecisse visus es, quin lecturam theologicam sine audiencium impensis Universitati tue

[1] *amoris* seems to be omitted.

magnificentissime concederes. Quo nihil magis egregium, vel ad perpetuum theologici studii profectum, aut futuri meriti tui incrementum existimari posset. Efficies hoc pacto, ut tuas Oxonias non magis in vita quam post mortem auxisse videaris. Mirabile enim dictu est, quantum in facultate theologica brevi coaluerit creveritque studencium numerus; ita ut mortue, si dicam, languescentesque diu discipline per te reviviscere et ad vitam revocari videantur. Nos idcirco, quamquam hec hujusmodi sint ut suapte natura nulla ea vetustas temporis ex hominum memoria abolere poterit, nomen tuum eciam immortale relinquere cupientes, post festum S. Dionisii, in missa resumpcionis termini—si tamen id tibi, quod speramus, placere videbitur—specialem nominis tui collectam perpetuis temporibus dicendam concepimus: quod an tibi gratum acceptumque sit cerciores fieri vehementer optamus. Et semper valeat tua majestas, strenuissime princeps. *Datum vicesimo octavo die mensis Marcii.* **Fol. 143 b.**

To the Dean and Chapter of Windsor[1].

We present to you master Robert Elyott, and beg that you will admit and institute him to the chantry of your college, lately founded by the King; who also gave us the perpetual right of nomination to that office.

VENERABILIBUS Decano et capitulo collegii domini regis infra castrum de Wynsore Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque magistrorum regencium in eadem debitas reverencias et honores. Ad cantariam perpetuam vestre jurisdiccionis in collegio vestro, de magnificencia Christianissimi principis Edwardi quarti, Dei gracia regis Anglie et Francie, nuperrime fundatam, et ad nostram nominacionem et presentacionem ex donacione ejusdem domini nostri regis spectantem, dilectum nobis in Christo, magistrum Robertum Elyott, in artibus magistrum Universitatis nostre nominamus et presentamus; supplicantes quatenus dictum magistrum Robertum Elyot ad predictam cantariam admittere, ipsumque canonice in eadem capellanum instituere, ceteraque peragere, que vestro in hac parte incumbunt officio, dignemini intuitu caritatis. *Datum, &c.* **1482.**

308.

To the Bishop of Ely.

Trusting in the generosity of your character, and in no merits of our own, we are encouraged to address you on a subject of great importance

[1] This letter is not numbered in MS.

to our welfare, and to the perpetuation of your honour. We are making efforts to build a school of Canon law, to which we desire to add also one of Civil law, placing the former on the ground, and the latter over it; if we can obtain the requisite funds. The means to help us fortune has given you, and, we hope, the will likewise.

482. Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Eliensi episcopo, Cancellarius, &c. Tametsi ulla nunquam, reverende pater, a nobis in te merita proficisci tanta potuerunt, ut nostro jure tuam vicissim beneficentiam vindicare possemus, prestans tamen ingenuaque natura[1] mirifice nos hortata est, ut, in tua potius benignitate quam nostris meritis confisi, tecum confidenter loquamur; presertim in his que ad potissimum Universitatis nostre commodum, et ad immortalem nominis tui memoriam spectare videbuntur. Si sane, presul prestantissime, maxima quamplurimum erga respublicas suas merita ante oculos proponas, non committendum putabis, ut Universitati nostre, imo tue, ullum commodum in te claudas. Atque, ut paucis expediamus, scito, presul colendissime, nos omnem curam, sollicitudinem, studium, diligentiam, omnemque tandem industriam consumere in edificandis scolarum canonistarum edificiis: quibus etiam in eodem terrarum ambitu, si nobis ad id suppeteret facultas, [2]civilistarum scolas conjungeremus, has in levatiori illas in bassiori edificiorum loco collocaturi. Sed quoniam deesse nobis illa, quibus ad hanc rem permaxime opus est, sat cognovimus, ad te statuimus, optime pater, supplices confugere, teque rogare ut orantibus nobis aures aperias. Habes enim fortunam ut possis, naturam—speramus enim ita—ut velis prodesse nobis. Et ne pluribus proinde tecum agamus, singularissime domine, tuum in hac parte patrocinium vehementer rogamus. Et semper valeat tua dominatio, presul dignissime. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, &c.*

309.

Fol. 144 a. **Episcopo Bathoniensi.**

The ruin of that which is most precious to us has been averted by the generosity of those who were willing to use their wealth for the maintenance of education. This the bishop of London has done for the school of theology; and now absolute necessity, rather than the utility of the object, compels us to take in hand the rebuilding of the school of canon law; for unless some liberal hands come to its rescue, it must shortly

[1] *natua* MS. [2] *in civilistarum* ib.

fall down. We hope that we may reckon upon your assistance, distinguished as you are in all learning but more especially in this faculty: we expect also that your example will find many imitators.

MAGNO semper presidio et ornamento bonis disciplinis fuerunt . . .[1], colendissime presul, quibus ad mercaturam bonarum facultatum maxima lucra tandem obvenerunt. Illorum namque liberalitate profectum est, ut preciosissime res nostre, que naufragium propediem facture videbantur, non modo ab omni calamitate vindicarentur, verum etiam gloriosius ornarentur. Quod cum pridem in sacris litteris honestandis reverendi patris in Christo Londoniensis episcopi sumptibus factum esset, reliquum erat ut scolas juris canonici instaurandas curaremus, non tam utilitate quam necessitate compulsi. Tanta enim vetustate domus illa confecta est, ut nisi liberalissimorum hominum industria celerius occurratur, brevi momento casuram non dubitemus. Huic rei, quoniam te unum, reverende pater, magno adjumento esse posse cognoscimus, plurimum in tua paternitate spei collocavimus; existimantes profecto te, cum in omni, tum in hac juris potissimum doctrina prestantem, eo libentius ipsius facultatis edificando domicilio opitulaturum, quo majorem fueris ex ea re laudem atque gloriam consecutus. Itaque tuam prestantiam, magnifice presul, quoad possumus, vehementer rogamus, ut te nobis in hac re tam fructuosa tamque necessaria liberalem patronum prebeas atque prestes. Speramus quoque permultos alios ad suppeditandos sumptus tue liberalitatis exemplo facilius adduci posse. Quod ad nos attinet, curabimus certe ut quidquid dederis dedisse gaudeas. 1482.

310[2].

The more we are indebted to you, the more we wish to be so—a sign, Cicero says, of a generous disposition.—We would now ask you, therefore —for your wishes will have weight—to invite the bishops of Ely, Norwich, and Bath and Wells to assist us in rebuilding the school of Canon law. So bad is its condition that no one dares enter the building, and it is surprising the wind does not bring it down, for the foundations are so far gone as to be beyond repair. Unless we rebuild it, as we hope by your help we shall, the University must lose the value of its rent, four marks a year.

QUOTIENS tua erga rempublicam nostram merita, pater prestantissime, memorie commendamus, nulli unquam hominum ac tibi nos 1482.

[1] A blank space in MS. [2] No address, but probably to Bishop of London.

plus debere plane cognoscimus; qui nostris agendis rebus nihil loci incurie relinquis. Sed quoniam, ut inquit Cicero, ingenui animi est cui multum debeas ei plus velle debere, iterum ad novos labores te hortabimur; teque rogabimus ut doctissimis episcopis Eliensi, Norwicensi et Wellensi suggeras, illisque animos acuas,—plurimum in hac re tua valebit auctoritas—ut illorum jam prope casuris canonistarum scolis non desint presidia. Tanta equidem antiquitate confecte[1] sunt, tantasque intrantibus minas pre se ferre videntur, ut nemo illas jam intret amplius. Mirantur preterea multi, quod tantos ventorum impetus sine casu passe sint; quarum ita fracta debiliaque sunt fundamenta ut illarum reparatio nihil utilitatis afferre videatur. Quo fit ut aut illas[2] restaurari, aut quatuor marcas Universitatis redditus minui necesse sit. Te ergo, presul beneficentissime, vehementer rogamus, ut his futuris malis nostris mederi velis; quod te facturum firmiter speramus, si his, quos et posse et velle prodesse fortuna uberius arrisit, nobis ad earum edificia deesse facultates monstraveris. Itaque tuum in hac parte expectatum patrocinium experiamur, obsecramus, plurimum.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1482. Noverint universi per presentes, nos, Leonellum Widevil, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Thomam Kerner, Radulphum Stanoppe, ejusdem procuratores recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos sterlingorum bone ac legalis monete Anglie; in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo secundo, quarto mensis Septembris.*

311.

Fol. 144 b. **To the Bishop of London[3].**

Lest we should be deemed ungrateful, we write to express, though it be but feebly, our thanks for the great service you have rendered us. We have already received thirteen volumes. They are truly a magnificent gift; and though the donor of them deserves our praise; to you, through whose incomparable affection and generosity to us they have been cleverly

[1] *confecta* MS. [2] *illam* ib. [3] No address; probably to Bishop of London.

traced, and recovered from those who had unlawfully taken possession of them, far more honour is due. You have raised for yourself an imperishable monument.

REVERENDE, &c. Tanta siquidem tamque nobilissima tua sunt in rempublicam merita, clementissime presul, ut dignas tue liberalitati gratias nequaquam referre valeamus. Verum ne tuorum in nos posterosque nostros beneficiorum aut ingrati aut immemores esse videamur, per has litteras nostras, si quas volumus non possumus, eas tamen, quas valemus, tibi gratias habere decrevimus. Tredecim jam pridem codices abs tua prestantia ad nos delati sunt, qui quidem quam celebre quamque magnificum donum visi sunt omnibus, non facile dixerim. Laudandus est equidem hujusce hereditatis auctor atque extollendus[1]; longe tamen tu majorem, religiosissime antistes, et laudem et gloriam es in hac re consecutus, cum tua summa pietate, qua ceteros excellis, atque liberalitate, qua nemo est tibi conferendus, legatum ipsum a variis raptoribus usucaptum, et in alios usus quam defuncti mens fuisset adductum, subtili indagine non mediocrique tuo sumptu recuperaveris, effecerisque ut ad veros creditores devolverentur. Gaudemus plane omnes, nec mediocriter letamur, celeberrime presul, quod hanc almam tuam et disciplinarum tuarum matrem tanto amore tantaque benevolentia prosequaris; ita ut in hac una protegenda omnis salutis tue spes sita esse videatur. Fecisti proculdubio tibi solidissima eternitatis monimenta, que non in hominum etatis nostre modo sed et eorum, qui post nos futuri sunt, recenti memorie commendabuntur. Vivesque ad perpetuum tui decus et ornamentum; idque vehementer cupimus omnes. Et semper valeat tua dominatio, presul beneficentissime. *Datum, &c.* 1482.

312.

To the King.

Your defence of this realm from foes without, your repression of rebellion within, alike crowned with victory, will make your name for ever illustrious: but though Oxford, in common with other cities, owes thanks to you for these blessings, yet is she more deeply indebted to you than they, because you have made her welfare your peculiar care, in these days of heresy in the church and insubordination in the state. For what could more clearly show your confidence in us than that you entrust to us the education of your nephew, the Lord Edward Pole, a youth whose virtues are as lofty as his rank? From the first he has exhibited

[1] *extollens* MS.

talents superior to those of his companions, and yet withal such is his modesty and politeness that his conduct is admired by all. Nor must we omit to thank you for sending us likewise the noble master Stanley to be his associate while he remains with us.

1482. CRISTIANISSIMO principi Edwardo, &c. Tametsi, princeps illustrissime, multas res gesseris, que eternitatem nominis tui mori non permittant, nunquam tamen ex aliqua re gesta, quam quod tuende Universitatis Oxoniensis provinciam susceperis, profusius gaudere debebis: quippe cum mortuas propemodum disciplinas ex integro redemisse videaris. Non equidem nescii sumus, princeps excellentissime, quantum tibi universa Britannia debeat, cujus hostilia jacula intentatamque sepe ruinam propugnasti, eamque cum expensis, tum curis atque cogitatione non mediocri defenderis, effecerisque ut hostium suorum semper victrix evaderet. Tacemus intestinas civilesque discordias, que ne unquam regno tuo nocerent sapientissime curasti; pro his enim omnibus Oxonia tua parem tibi cum ceteris civitatibus atque oppidis gratiam debet; sed maximam ingentissimamque quod regende illius, insolito regum more, curam admiseris. Quantum enim valet tantum tuo jure ab illa repetere possis; qui his pestilentissimis perturbatissimisque temporibus illius jacture atque calamitati occurristi. Quod tametsi abunde satis expressis argumentis cognitum expertumque habemus, his tamen proximis diebus luce clarius intelleximus. Non enim nisi a magno tue in nos pietatis animo proficisci potuit, ut dominum Edwardum Poole, nepotem tuum, in quo future probitatis argumenta videras, nostris[1] gimnasiis erudiendum curares; cujus sane talis est virtus, eaque disciplina ut imperiali sanguini suo sua virtus facile equari possit. Nam cum tuis primum Oxoniis se contulisset, iis artibus, quibus etas illius informata est, ceteros, quos studii sui comites habuit, celeriter antecelluit. Eaque est in suos ceterosque omnes modestia ac mansuetudine, ut nemo sit, qui illius constantiam atque probitatem non admiretur pariter et
Fol. 145 a. laudet; presertim cum illum quantum nobilitate, tantum ingenii gloria, tantum denique egregiorum meritorum magnitudine ceteris prestare videat[2]. Accedit etiam ad tuam erga nos pietatem, quod magistrum Stanley, infantem etiam nobilem atque litterarum studiosum, illi prenobili nepoti tuo studiorum suorum comitem adjunxeris. Pro quibus omnibus celsitudini tue gratias et habemus et agimus, nosque eternam nominis tui memoriam, quoad possumus, facturos pollicemur. Et semper valeat tua majestas, equissime princeps.

[1] *ad nostris* MS. [2] *videant* ib.

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Leonellum Widevill, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Jacobum Babbe, Robertum Lathis, procuratores Universitatis antedicte recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in plenam solucionem cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo communi Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo tertio, die mensis Aprilis vicesimo sexto.* 1483.

313.

Archiepiscopo Dubliniensi.

We congratulate ourselves that you have attained so exalted a station; and, whenever we are in difficulty from the misconduct of worthless members of our body, we feel confident that, in appealing to you, we shall find one ready to stamp out the first sparks of heretical teaching. Two degenerate sons of this University, Isaac Cusake and Denys Tully, are going about your diocese, preaching that Christ 'begged from door to door' and inveighing against the papal censure of that false statement. We pray you, therefore, to serve them with our citations enclosed herewith.

AUCTORITATI tue, presul magnifice, plurimum gratulamur, teque ex nostro grege in tam prestantem tamque magnificum presulem evasisse gaudemus. Quotiens enim res nostre id hortantur, Universitatisque nostre gloria in perditissimis membris jacturam factura videbitur, ad tuam prestantiam tutissime fugiendum non dubitamus; nec verebimur te in nostra, imo omnium catholicorum, causa rogatum habere, ut infideles quasdam jam pridem subortas scintillulas, priusquam flammam faciant, extinguas[1]. Atque, ut paucis expediamus, hec res est: edidit Universitas nostra inter ceteros, quos evo nostro florentissimos habuit dominos,—sic fama est,—degeneres alumnos, alterum ordinis Minorum, sacre pagine professorem, quem Ysaac Cusake, alterum ordinis predicatorum, quem Dionysium Tully[2] appellant; qui plus nequitie quam sapientie aut fidei spiritu inflati, Christum hostiatim mendicasse, idque in tua diocesi, predicant; nec constitucioni extravaganti parcunt, 1483.

[1] *extiguas* MS. [2] or *Dully* ib.

qua Joannes Papa hujusmodi hereticos censuit atque decrevit. Te ergo, presul egregie, apprime rogamus, ut nostras contra eos citaciones, quas cum presentibus accipies, ad eos quamprimum dirigas; ne tantum facinus diu inultum transeat. Et valeat tua dominacio. *Ex domo congregacionis, secundo die mensis Maii. Eodem die sigillate sunt citaciones contra eosdem, ut compareant infra tres menses sub pena degradacionis.*

314.

Fol. 145 b.

To the King[1]. Richard III.

From your letter we learn with sorrow that some one has accused us to your Majesty. We did, however, as you ordered us to do, and again carefully examined the persons in question; with the result that we consider the sentence of banishment passed upon Agnes Welden most just, for she is a woman of abandoned character, and cannot be permitted to live here without violation of our statutes. We can prove our statement as to the shameful suggestion made to your Majesty, which she denies. We are not actuated by any personal feeling in the matter; and, if you require it to be done, we will obey your will, and suffer her to return.

1483. Tue majestatis litteras, illustrissime princeps, jampridem accepimus, quarum cum tenorem cognitum perspectumque haberemus, nos tue majestati accusatos esse doluimus. Curavimus tamen,—id tue mandarunt littere,—ut Ricardus Welden ejusque uxor ac Stephanus Hanyll rursus in examinacionem vocarentur; eorumque causas atque res gestas denuo audivimus. Facta equidem super his matura deliberacione, equissime in Agnetis Welden bannicionem processum esse aperte cognovimus; quippe cum mulieris illius tanta sit ignominia, ut non nisi turpiter violatis Universitatis tue statutis reduci atque restitui potuerit. Addimus insuper, quod infandam tue majestati suggestionem, cujus illa omnem pene partem inficiatur, obtulerit: quod non libentius scripturos nos quam probaturos pollicemur. Tuam ergo majestatem apprime rogamus, ne nos Universitatis tue statuta, que multos jam annos sub clarissimorum progenitorum tuorum singulari proteccione integerrima manserunt, in hac re violasse tibi persuadeas. Nihil sane in ipsius odium, quominus administranda illi foret justicia, nos aliquando concitavit: quam si tua celsitudo reducendam decreverit, nos tuis, et libenter, mandatis parebimus. Et diu valeat tua majestas, equissime princeps. *Datum sexto Idus Julias.*

[1] To which king this letter is addressed is not easy to determine. Richard III was crowned July 6, but it is not improbable that he may have interfered in the matter, which is the subject of this letter, before that event. If the letter was addressed to Edward IV, of course it is, as so many others are, misplaced in the MS.

Decision of a question as to the testamentary disposition of the property of Agnes Glovere: and confirmation by Congregation in S. Mary's Church of a certain arbitration relating thereto. Fol. 146 a.

NOVERINT universi presentes litteras inspecturi, quod nos, alme Universitatis Oxoniensis magister, Willelmus Sutton[1], commissarius generalis, scrutato registro, tempore nostro facto et habito, inter cetera in eodem contenta comperimus contineri, quod quedam donatio per honestam mulierem, dum vixit, Luciam Sutton, *alias* Glovere, in vico vulgariter '*Cattis Street*' nuncupato commorantem, facta fuit Johanni Asshenden et Margarete uxori sue et filie ejusdem Lucie; et quoddam arbitrium sive laudum latum et cum pena summe quadraginta librarum legalis monete Anglie vallatum, inter dictum Johannem Asshenden ex parte una et venerabilem virum magistrum Johannem Perott, in artibus magistrum, ac socium perpetuum collegii regalis Oxonie predicte, parte ex altera, quorum tenores sequuntur, sub forma que sequitur: 1483

Quinto decimo die mensis Julii doctor Stephyn, magister Langton, Johannes Bray, Johannes Caswell, Thomas Hartt testantur Luciam Glovere dixisse et promisisse in presentia eorumdem, quod Johannes Asshenden et ejus uxor succederent eidem Lucie in omnibus bonis suis post ejus mortem; ita quod dictus Johannes Asshenden solveret debita ejusdem Lucie, in cujus signum misit eundem Johannem coram eisdem ad persolvendum certa debita, que etiam perfecit. Item, immediate post, Johannes Bray et Johannes Caswell testantur, dictam Luciam jurasse, quod in casu a predictis variasset, quod ditaret dictum Johannem de bonis dicte Lucie, ad valorem viginti librarum; et hoc juravit coram eisdem.

In Dei nomine, Amen. Anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie vicesimo, die mensis Decembris vicesimo tertio, venerabiles viri, magister Willelmus Sutton et magister Johannes Taylour, sacre theologie professores, arbitratores et amicabiles compositores indifferenter electi inter Johannem Asshenden parte ex una, et magistrum Johannem Perott, in artibus magistrum, parte ex altera, in quadam causa que inter eosdem vertebatur, super et de jure bonorum quondam ad dictam Luciam Glovere de villa Oxoniensi pertinentium, tulerunt laudum et arbitramentum suum in hunc modum: videlicet quod dictus Johannes Asshenden haberet et habebit domum et habitationem, in qua dicta Lucia, cum vixerat, habitavit, sibi et assignatis suis durante termino quem habet dicta Lucia in dicta domo seu

[1] The words are thus transposed in the MS.

habitatione. Item, quod omnia bona mobilia, et etiam jura ad eandem Luciam quecumque qualitercunque et ubicunque in sua vita vel post ejus mortem pertinentia vel pertinere debentia, inter eosdem Johannem Asshenden et magistrum Johannem Perott dividantur per equales portiones. Item, quod dicta bona Lucie estimentur et apprecientur per stationarium Universitatis. Item, omnia onera respectu eorumdem bonorum vel persone ejusdem Lucie incumbentia sustineantur equaliter ab eisdem. Item, ut disponant pro anima ejusdem Lucie juxta conscientiam suam, cum consilio et avisamento arbitratorum et amicabilium compositorum predictorum. Item, specialiter provisum est per eosdem arbitratores seu amicabiles compositores, quod dictus Johannes Asshenden, vel alius per eum deputatus, ad servandum annuum obitum seu anniversarium ejusdem Lucie, ad terminum quo dictam domum tenuerit, per se vel suos assignatos obligetur; deponendo de suis sumptibus pro eodem obitu seu anniversario ad minus duos solidos singulis annis futuris. Item, quod dictus obitus seu anniversarium servetur in ecclesia Beate Marie in Oxonia, ubi corpora dicte Lucie et ejus mariti tumulantur. Item, quod dictus magister Perott faciet Johanni Asshenden de villa Oxonia, '*glovere*,' acquietanciam puram et generalem ab initio mundi usque in diem confectionis presentium. Et quod dictus Johannes Asshenden faciet magistro Perott aliam consimilem acquietanciam; salvo in omnibus dictis arbitratoribus et amicabilibus compositoribus jure declarandi et interpretandi omnia et singula subscripta[1].

Acta sunt hec omnia et singula predicta in ecclesia Beate Marie in Oxonia, anno mense dieque supradictis, partibus audientibus, presentibus et consentientibus; videlicet, doctore Baldeswell dicti Johannis Asshenden procuratore, et magistro Johanne Perott; presentibus tunc ibidem Christophero Ratclyff in artibus magistro, domino Willelmo in artibus bacallario, Willelmo Parkare, Ricardo Thomlynson, testibus ad premissa vocatis specialiter et rogatis. In cujus quidem scrutinii testimonium sigillum officii cancellariatus Oxoniensis predictis apponi
Fol. 146 b. fecimus. *Datum, quoad sigillationem presentium, tertio die mensis Junii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo tertio, et regni regis Edwardi quinti post conquestum Anglie primo.* Et ad omnia et singula premissa bene et fideliter observanda partes suprascripte se astrinxerunt per suum promissum, fidem et juramentum, et sub pena quadraginta librarum suprascripta.

Secundo die mensis Junii declaratum est in domo congregationis, quod laudum illud magistri Sutton ex una parte, et magistri Taylour ex altera parte, pro divisione bonorum Lucie Glovere nuper vidue

[1] *suprascripta?*

in Oxonia, inter magistros Johannem Perott et Johannem Asshenden, esset ad salutem anime ipsius Lucie et ad preservationem bonorum ejusdem, et preterea ad pacem et tranquillitatem Universitatis; et propterea voluit dicta congregatio et decrevit, quod in omni robore permaneret et virtute. In cujus rei testimonium predictique laudi confirmationem, dicta congregatio sigillum suum commune presentibus apposuit. *Datum in congregationis domo, tertio decimo die mensis Octobris, anno regni regis Ricardi post conquestum tercii*[1] *primo.*

315.

Ad Ricardum tertium[2].

We rejoice that you have triumphed over your enemies, and it is natural we should do so, for the records of our past history show that your affection for us exceeds that of any king before you; and it is a memorable event, to be preserved in imperishable annals, that you in person attended our philosophic disputations, and publicly declared your intention to be a most staunch supporter and defender of our privileges. We are anxious to do what will be agreeable to you, and, in electing the bishop of Durham to be our Chancellor, we hope we have made a choice acceptable to your Majesty.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi, &c. Letamur, invicte princeps, tui nominis emulos faciem tuam timuisse, teque hactenus de hoste tenuisse triumphum. Nec ab re quidem, nam si dierum nostrorum res gestas collegerimus[3], aut etiam antiquissimorum fundatorum nostrorum, quorum patrociniis respublica nostra plurimum aucta est, preclara facta memorie mandabimus, inveniemus profecto istorum magnam, tuam autem fuisse maximam in nos pietatem. Est enim eterna dignum memoria immortalibusque commendandum litteris, quod tu, qui princeps es, cum Oxoniam adventasses, philosophice disceptationis audiende, inaudito regum exemplo, curam haberes; viveque vocis oraculo te acerrimum libertatum atque privilegiorum nostrorum defensorem fore diceres. Quantum enim valet Universitas tua, tantum ab illa tuo jure repetere diceres. Nos vero, ne tuorum mandatorum immemores essemus, curavimus ut, quam cito fieri licuit, in eleccionem novi Cancellarii procederemus; atque continuo reverendum patrem episcopum Dunelmensem ad id officium elegimus, quod tue majestati gratum esse confidimus; que diu valeat, rex illustrissime. *Datum anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo tertio, vicesimo die mensis Octobris.* 1483.

[1] *tercii* supplied over the line, but by a contemporary hand. [2] This title is in a later hand in the MS. [3] *colligerimus* M

316.

To the Bishop of Durham.

After long deliberation whom we should entrust with the charge, it seems to us that no one is so fit as yourself to be our Chancellor. We beg, therefore, that you will graciously accept the office, and send to you our proctors with authority to administer the oath to you.

1483. REVERENDO patri, episcopo Dunelmensi, &c. Cogitantibus diu nobis cujus auctoritati Universitatem nostram, multos jam dies capite orbatam, committendum foret, occurristi tu in primis, dignissime presul; neque enim alium habemus, qui meritorum magnitudine aut summa in nos dileccione antecellere videatur. Ad te igitur confugimus, in quo omnem regende reipublice nostre auctoritatem collocavimus. Atque ne hujus rei pertesum sit, Universitatis nostre procuratores ad te misimus, quibus etiam recipiendi juramenti tui auctoritatem plenam commisimus. Rogamus ergo pietatem tuam quatenus hanc eleccionem tuam comi fronte suscipias, nosque tibi deditissimos semper persuadeas. *Datum anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo tertio, vicesimo die Octobris.*

317.

Fol. 147 a.

To the Dean and Chapter of Windsor.

The chantry of your college having become vacant by the resignation of master Robert Elyot, we nominate and present to you our dear brother, master Robert Pevesey, and beg that you will admit him to the office and canonically institute him.

1483. VENERABILIBUS Decano et capitulo collegii domini regis infra castrum de Wyndesore Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, universusque regentium in eadem cetus magistrorum, reverencias debitas et honores. Ad cantariam perpetuam vestre jurisdictionis, in collegio vestro de magnificencia Christianissimi principis Edwardi quarti, nuper regis Anglie et Francie, nuperrime fundatam, et ad nostram nominacionem et presentacionem ex donacione ejusdem plene spectantem, et nunc ex juris presentatorii [vigore][1], cessione magistri Roberti Elyot, ad nos devolutam, dilectum nobis in Christo magistrum Robertum Pevesey, in artibus magistrum, nominamus et presentamus; supplicantes quatenus dictum magistrum, Robertum Pevesey, ad predictam cantariam admittere, ipsumque canonice in eadem capellanum instituere, ceteraque peragere, que vestre in hac parte incumbunt jurisdictioni,

[1] *vigore* omitted in MS., but see epist. 332, p. 506.

dignemini intuitu caritatis. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo tertio, ultimo die mensis Octobris.*

318.

To the Bishop of Lincoln—Lord Chancellor [1].

After long deliberation and debate concerning the confirmation of our privileges, we have come to the conclusion that nothing should be done before having your advice; for we think that both your natural acumen and great experience will secure us against any mistake. If therefore you will signify to the bearer of this letter what course you advise, we shall execute your instructions as soon as possible. This alone will calm our anxiety.

POSTEAQUAM, pater egregie, multa nobiscum cogitassemus, deque 1484.
confirmandis privilegiis nostris diu disceptassemus, multa tandem sentenciarum varietate affecti sumus, effectumque est ut hec una foret omnium sentencia; nihil discernendum fore, nisi prius tuam dominationem, in qua omnem spem nostram collocamus, consultam faceremus. Errore quidem vacare putamus, quod a tuo tum naturali tum experto eruditoque ingenio proficisci contingeret. Rogamus ergo paternitatem tuam, doctissime presul, ne inconsultis mentibus nostris tua desit prudentia. Ea una est de qua omnes plurimum confisi; soli illi adherendum decreverunt. Si tua ergo dominatio,—quod speramus,—dignabitur presentium tabellario quid in hac re nobis faciendum sit significare, curabimus ut, tue prudencie morem gerentes, id quamprimum prosequamur. Hoc unum erit, quod perturbatas multorum mentes, quibus res publica cure est, quieti dare potest. Ut ergo id facias iterum atque iterum rogamus, presul doctissime. Et diu valeat tua dominatio. *Datum Idibus Februarii.*

319.

To the Bishop of Lincoln [2].

Our eternal gratitude is due to you for your consent to give us your advice; and, indeed, such are the evil days in which we live, that our peace is ever being interrupted, so that had not you, whose authority is all but supreme, sprung from among us, the University must have been disgraced and ruined. We know the cares of state fully occupy your

[1] No address, but evidently to the Bishop of Lincoln; cf. epp. 320, 323.
[2] No address, subscription, or date, but, as in the case preceding, apparently to the Bishop of Lincoln.

mind, we will therefore not trespass too far on your time, for the subject is one which cannot be treated in few words, but beg that you will give to our messenger so much of your time as you can steal from your leisure.

1484. IMMORTALES tibi gracias, pater, debemus, qui inexpertis sentenciis nostris non passus es tuam in confirmandis privilegiis nostris deesse[1] prudentiam. Nos sane ea tempestate illaque temporis malicia nati sumus, ut mediam quietem nostram nove semper angustie occupent. Quod si te, cujus pene par est cum Domino auctoritas, res publica nostra non parturiisset, his quotidianis solitoque frequencioribus emulorum insultibus tabefacta squalesceret. Sed ne tuam dominacionem,—cujus he sunt cure, illaque cum popularia tum regia negocia ut merito doctissimi atque expertissimi hominis ingenium incitent,—nimia verborum satietate expleamus,—rei quippe ea est natura ut paucis expediri non possit,—presentium tabellarium mentis nostre conscium ad te transmisimus. Huic ergo si, quod speramus, recreacionis tue furta accomodabis, nihil nobis impresentiarum gracius accidere poterit; utque id facere digneris dominacionem tuam vehementer rogamus. Et semper vale, presul egregie.

320.

Fol. 147 b. **To the Bishop of Lincoln.**

We can never sufficiently thank you for providing for the safety of our privileges, before issuing your 'subpoena.' We have not had time thoroughly to search our privileges, but we find that 'freehold' is excepted. Many additions have, however, from time to time been made to them; we should be glad, therefore, to have a longer time allowed us for search. To your letter received before we have not replied, because the accusations we perceived to have been made against us came upon us as a surprise; we therefore postponed our answer until we should have ascertained whether the alleged facts were true or not.

1484. EPISCOPO Lincolniensi, pridie Kalendas Julias, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo quarto.

Perennes immortalesque gratias tue dominationi habemus, quod antea integritati privilegiorum nostrorum, ne unquam violata forent, provideris quam scriptum illud sub pena ad Universitatem dirigi decreveris. Nos vero, non ut voluimus sed ut tempus tulit, quedam privilegiorum nostrorum perlegimus; in hisque auditionem liberi tenementi a nobis exceptam vidimus. Sed quoniam multi regum concessis nobis privilegiis alia majora superaddiderint, nec ea omnia

[1] *non deesse* MS.

a nobis adhuc perlecta sunt, dominationem tuam rogamus ut longiorem scrutinii diem nobis imparcias. Curabimus, quamprimum dabitur facultas, plenum rei hujus responsum tue dominationi perferri. Quod autem perlatis ad nos pridem litteris nihil hactenus responsum est, id cause fuit. Inspectis litteris ita infestos reipublice nostre emulos nos tue dominationi accusasse conjectura accepimus. Nos idcirco, quoniam de hujusmodi insidiis ex illis litteris primum audivimus, nec hujusmodi per nostros fuisse factum nec omnino infectum sine majori rei experientia rescribere potuimus. Rem ergo, propter majorem investigande rescribendeque veritatis certitudinem, distulimus, nostrosque a culpa vacare comperimus, quoad privilegiorum nostrorum confirmacionem. Hanc libenter cupimus sed adhuc facultates id agendi non suppeditant. Diu valeas, egregie presul.

321.

To the King.

Many considerations move us to commend to your mercy the Lord Bishop of Ely. He has become one of the most distinguished sons of our University, and in all matters involving our interests has ever been our staunch defender and ready helper. Yet, of course, in pleading these merits we subordinate them to your Majesty's own safety and honour, feeling our obligations to you to be deeper than to any of your royal predecessors. We have waited until we should be able to make a probable estimate of the bishop's future conduct, and now, being convinced that his fault has been due to natural error rather than to wilful intention, and that he has ever since sought pardon for his offence, we no longer withhold from him that yearning a mother feels for her son in his distress. You will not impute this to our charge as a fault, for, if we admire good qualities even in our enemies, surely you will pardon us, your loyal University, if we cling to those most dear to us. We entreat for him, then, your mercy! He has already been punished—lightly we confess in proportion to the offence—and in extending to him your pardon, you will not only make a gracious concession to us and the Church at large, but at the same time consult your own reputation and interest. The Roman poets and historians tell us how that proud nation boasted of their mercy to a fallen foe, and you can boast of the same triumph by taking to your favour again this your erring fellow-man. We fear to dwell too much on these points, as also on the singular good qualities he possesses, lest our suit should seem to extort by argument that which we desire to owe wholly to your clemency. It is because we feel it to be our duty, and not because we doubt your mercy, that we make this appeal.

1484. CHRISTIANISSIMO regi ac principi, Ricardo, Dei gratia regi Anglie, &c.

Nonnulla sunt, Christianissime princeps, que nos vehementer hortari debeant ut reverendum in Christo patrem, dominum Eliensem episcopum, tue clemencie magnopere commendemus. Primum quod hic unus ex primoribus ac precipuis Universitatis nostre filiis jamjam evasit; denique in rebus nostris, si quid forte nostra interesset, singularem se nobis patronum atque paratissimum se nobis semper prebuit. Hec autem, tametsi magni apud gratos homines ponderis ac momenti esse debeant, nunquam tamen persuadere nos poterant ad orandam pro eo veniam, nisi quatenus habenda semper esset ratio dignitatis atque salutis tue, quippe cui ob magnitudinem meritorum in nos tuorum tantum debemus, quantum certe nulli superiorum regum unquam debuimus. Itaque, quoad dubitatum a nobis erat, quo ille animo in tuam prestantiam futurus esset, quidve facturus, fas esse non putavimus ut illius curantes salutem tuam in discrimen adduceremus. Nunc autem quandoquidem compertum habemus illum humano quodam errore non pertinacia lapsum, errati veniam semper quesisse, commota sunt tandem viscera matris nostre; que, veluti Rachael plorans filios suos, miserandam tam clarissimi filii calamitatem mesta deplorat. Nec propterea merito reprehendenda, si enim in hoste pietas erga suos laudanda sit, multo magis in Universitate nostra tue majestatis observantissima, que omnium virtutum studia profitetur, pietas in suos laudari debet. Hec cum ita sint, nequaquam ultra differendum rati, supplices ad tuam clemenciam confugimus, orantes atque obsecrantes ut, quoniam nonnullas, quanquam commemoratis obfensionibus leviusculas, majestati tue jam penas dederit, conversus hominem respicias, tueque dono gratie clementer imparcias; in quo non modo illi et nobis omnibus et toti ecclesie gratissimum feceris, sed etiam ingentem tibi et laudem et fructum, uti speramus, comparabis. Quis enim, audita tanti patris reconciliacione, tantam tamque divinam clemenciam summis ad celum laudibus non efferat. Illud namque Virgilianum gloriabantur Romani in suis laudibus dici, '*parcere subjectis et debellare superbos.*' Hanc quoque laudem teste Sallustio Romani vindicabant, quod ad igno-
Fol. 148 a. scendas quam ad ulciscendas injurias propensiores erant. Si hanc precipuam laudem atque gloriam assequi volueris, facile quidem assequeris si hominem complecti voles. Romanos ipsos hoc tuo egregio facto vinces atque superabis. Quantum preterea consequi fructum ex ea re possis, tametsi nos ipsi satis intelligere videmus, commemoratis presertim eximiis ipsius virtutibus, nos tamen maluimus id totum tacitis tuis cogitacionibus considerandum relinquere, quam nimium longa eaque invidiosa oracione prosequi, ne forte putaremur,

dum laudes viri persequimur, vi pocius veniam extorquere velle quam suppliciter orare; aut in magnitudine virtutum ejus magis quam tue clemencie confidere; aut denique ad tuam pocius inscitiam quam misericordiam confugere. Quocirca de nobis sic habeto, strenuissime princeps, quidquid hactenus in causa episcopi duximus suadendum, magis officii nostri causa quam clemencie tue diffidencia fecisse. Itaque, omissis omnibus, que vel ad attenuandam culpam vel augendam virtutem allegari possent, omnem spem nostram in tua misericordia collocavimus; pollicentes, si cetera nobis defuerint, memoriam saltem tanti nobis collati beneficii nunquam apud nos obliteratum iri. Diu feliciterque valeat tua prestans regia majestas, Christianissime rex et princeps strenuissime, omnium nostrum unica salus atque perfugium. *Datum Oxonie in ecclesia S. Marie Virginis, quarto Kalendas Sextiles.*

Note as to the guild of barbers in Oxford.

SEPTIMO decimo die mensis Novembris sigillate sunt littere concernentes fraternitatem barbitonsorum. 1484.

322.

To the King.

The victory you have obtained over your enemies by your energy and skill, and the wise counsels, by which we doubt not you will secure both peace and honour for your subjects, give us more pleasure than you could believe. Everything seemed to be staked on the issue. We should have beheld our property plundered and children slaughtered by an alien foe, but for your wonderful ability. It is for no selfish aim you live but the safety of your country, and that you are endowed with such virtues we wonder not, since you employ them to such noble ends. Such is the victory they ever win, whose first care is God's service! We shall give due acknowledgement for all we owe you in the speech we understand you expect so much.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Ricardo, &c. Incredibili, rex insignissime, voluptate afficimur te triumphatis hostibus, quos industria divinoque ingenio tuo fregisti, tanta interea prudentia eoque consilio valuisse, qua tibi, quod firmiter speramus, pacem et gloriam comparaveris, subditisque tui regni incolis hostium pavorem providentissime exhauseris. Tantum enim tibi debent quantum eorum fortune omnes valere videntur, quas vi ereptas idque ab alienigenis, ut fama est, occulis conspexissent. Taceo quod liberos suos in ore gladii cecidisse vidissent, si non singularis incredibilisque prudentia tua his rebus 1484.

attulisset remedium. Non enim te plus tibi quam patrie, quam incolumem servasti, natum credimus. Neque enim miramur, si Deus ipse tantis te donavit virtutibus, cum te bonis heroicisque operibus incumbere audiamus. Talis enim solet esse eorum victoria, qui Deum ceteris curis preponunt. Nos vero, quos concessis a progenitoribus tuis privilegiis etiam sine precio denuo donasti, quantum tibi debemus illa sane oratione, in qua te plurimum spei collocasse audimus, te non fraudabimus. Diu valeas.

323.

Episcopo Lincolniensi[1].

Your reply, brought to us by our commissary, was most welcome. He tells us, and we readily credit it, how great is your care for us, proved as it is by our past experience, and confirmed by the singular wisdom and affection for us manifested in your support of our privileges. Your petition was wisely deferred, and your good offices have invested us again in our lost privileges, and restored to us the power of future usefulness.

1484. GRATISSIMA nobis fuerunt illa tua de libertatibus nostris responsa, que noster, imo tuus, commissarius jam pridem attulit. Qui, ut ait et credimus, ita in omnibus rempublicam nostram cure habes, ut omne studium, officium, diligentiam tuam in illius amplitudinem conferas. Id enim, etsi his superioribus diebus satis probatum non habuissemus, hac tamen singulari cura tua roborandarum libertatum nostrarum et summam prudentiam et ingentem in nos pietatem ostendisti: prudentiam, quod in tempore peticionem tuam distulisti, quo te majorem in petendis gratiam consecuturum arbitrabare; pietatem vero, quod tue memor parentis cum auctoritate, qua plurimum vales, tum consilio, quo paucis concedis, illam, antea abjectam atque spretam perditis indumentis instauraveris, et ad regenerandos prudentie filios fecundam effeceris. Nos vero, pro his ita dignitatem tuam observamus et colimus, ut ne quidem facile esse valeant propensiora tua in nos merita quam sit vis amoris erga te nostri. Vale. *Octavo Idus Feb.*[2]

324.

Fol. 148 b.

Domino Regi[3].

Your letter was received with due respect; and we are glad to find the service of Master Edwards is acceptable. We have excused his residence as regent, and hope his well-earned degree will be appreciated.

[1] Title on the margin of the MS. [2] The date is on the margin. [3] The title and the latter portion of the date is on the margin.

CHRISTIANISSIMO principi Ricardo, &c. Litteras tuas, excelse princeps, cum omni reverentia, sic enim decuit, jam nuper accepimus. Ex his enim dilecti confratris nostri, magistri Stephani Edwards, obsequia tue majestati placere didicimus. Nos idcirco illum a regentia sua hoc pacto absolvimus, ut tue majestati liberum officium prestare valeat; apprime rogantes ut gradus sui, quem nostra sententia dignus attigit, ratio semper haberi possit. Et diu vale. *Datum sexto decimo die Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo quarto.* 1484.

Acquittance of Eynsham and Oseney Abbeys.

QUINTO decimo die mensis Aprilis sigillate sunt acquietancie pro Abbatibus de Ensham et Osney, pro pensionibus suis Universitati debitis. 1484.

325.

Episcopo Exoniensi[1].

We rejoice that you have come safely through great and bitter trouble; to be, as we hope, of great service in the world. You are now so circumstanced that you can prove by your actions that your disposition inclines, no less than your fortune enables, you to be our protector: and this we beg that you will do by defending us in any suits by which we may be unjustly assailed. Nothing can shed more glory upon your name, already illustrious in our annals by the good deeds of your ancestors.

REVERENDO in Christo patri, &c. Gaudemus, egregie presul, te a durissimis acerbissimisque tempestatibus, ut multis prosis,—sic enim futurum speramus fore—conservatum. Itaque res tue eo loco, quod semper optamus, site sunt, ut quanta semper fuerit erga nos vis amoris tui, nunc quidem apertissimis argumentis significare posses. Neque enim natura ut velis, aut fortuna ut possis tibi deesse visa est. Obsecramus igitur ut rempublicam nostram, que quantum potuit semper tibi debuit, capessas, causasque nostras, si quas innocentibus nobis impendere videbis, suscipias, susceptasque protegas. Quid enim, per immortales, ceteris ornamentis nominis tui gloriosius addi poterit, quam quod de litteratis studiosisque hominibus benemeritus esse videaris? Nihil enim in rempublicam nostram efficere poteris, quod non in tuum aliquem fructum redundare videatur. Non enim nos progenitorum tuorum cepit oblivio, quorum preclare res geste, idque in rempublicam nostram, sempiterna vivunt memoria. Habes 1484.

[1] This title again is on the margin, and *Petro Courtney* is added in late hand.

unde vehementer gaudere possis, quod non majorem tibi progenitores tui lucem addiderunt, quam tu nepotibus tuis similiter promerendo relinquere poteris. Fac ergo ut concessam tibi et prope oblatam nominis immortalitatem non perdas. Et vale. *Datum quarto Kalendas Decembres.*

326.

Comiti Oxoniensi [1].

During your long exile, in the many changes of this life and the cruelty of fortune, your unswerving loyalty and noble character have caused you to be regretted by the people as few have been; so that we may venture to say that, though none dared to praise, yet none ceased to love you. So marvellous have been your many escapes from snares and perils that we must attribute them to a special interference of providence, which has brought you back to your country not only in safety but in honour; to be the chief buttress of the throne and the defender of all the realm. Receive the congratulations of the University of Oxford, commending her fortunes to your favour, and venturing to hope her name may be some title to your patronage.

1485. CHRISTIANISSIMO domino Johanni, comiti Oxoniensi, &c. Cum pro temporis varietate, vel potius iniquitate, multos jam annos abfueris, clarissime domine, neminem tamen prorsus memoria tenemus, cujus quam tui majori desiderio, cum ob inconcussam rei militaris fidem, tum ob ceterarum [2] virtutum ingenuitatem, suus populus afficeretur. Idque consulto et vero animo dixerimus cumulo profecto tuarum [3] nixi, vel pocius provocati, quarum tam efficax tamque sempiternum reliquisti monimentum, ut cum te per timorem nemo laudare auderet, nemo tamen non amare potuisset. Nec ab re quidem: fieri enim hominum consilio haud posse putamus, ut tot insidiis totque periculis frustratis in hunc usque diem superesses, quin pocius Deo tribuamus; qui non modo te in terram natalem reduxit incolumem; sed ita reduxit, ut et hujus preclari luminis regis nostri singulare fulcimentum, et tocius reipublice patronus effectus sis. Itaque hoc loco redeunti tibi congratulamur, remque Universitatis nostre singulari fide nec inferiori spe commendamus; que profecto, si loqui posset, nominis sui germanitate confisa abs te profecto confidenter tuicionem peteret, seque in tuas manus secura deponeret. Nos tamen impresentiarum tuam pro illa defensionem postulantes exaudi rogamus. Vale.

[1] Title in later hand on margin. This and the next following letters have no date, but, from the matter, may be safely ascribed to a day shortly after the battle of Bosworth. [2] *ceteram* MS. [3] *virtutum* seems to be omitted.

327.

Domino Stanlay.

Fol. 149 a.

Everything is new to us, and though we hope the present order may prove firmly established, it is but in its infancy. The occasion seems to us, therefore, proper for a prudent regard to our private interests, which depend wholly on the good-will of the King and of those most inclined to befriend us. For his renown it is enough that he equals his uncle in piety and his grandfather in military prowess; and, while we admire these his great qualities, we pray with clasped hands that he may surpass them in clemency, benevolence and greatness of mind. We had with us your brother, not indeed another Aristotle or Augustine, but endowed with great virtues and a staunch defender of the faith; and now we have your son, your very image, and whose noble disposition secures our affection and gives promise of a prosperous career. These our sentiments both towards him and yourself we earnestly beg you to lay open to the King, and assure him of our devoted service; but, as regards our love for your family, it is superfluous to say more.

Novitas jam omnium rerum et hujus status desiderate reipublice 1485.
tenera infancia, sed, ut speramus, firmissime ad longa futura secula facile duratura, occasioni nobis fuit peculiari commoditati nostre prudenter consulere. Privata enim hujus gimnasii salus et pendet ex bonitate principis, quem singularis esse virtutis omnis fama facit, atque etiam illorum, qui sunt illi clementissimi. Ad illius quidem immortalitatis gloriam satis erit, quod patruum suum Henricum sextum et avum suum Henricum quintum, illum religione, hunc armis et milicia adequet. Sed tamen nihil est quod junctis manibus ardencius rogamus, quam quod in primis princeps noster serenissimus, cujus virtutibus et fortunis non solum gratulamur sed et easdem admiramur, progenitores suos omnes clemencia, pietate, beneficencia et animi magnitudine vincat et plurimum superet. Ob eam rem credidimus unanimiter nostrum esse hunc Universitatis nostre consensum et[1] amorem ardentissimum non solum illi sed et tibi, qui nobis videris inter hujus regni proceres unus quam conjunctissimus, palam facere atque conscribere. Habuisti enim nobiscum fratrem, virum profecto multarum virtutum. Profitemur enim illum, non fuisse in philosophia Aristotelem nec in resolvendis sacrarum litterarum archanis alterum Augustinum, et tamen adversus Christiane religionis invasores, tum animi constancia tum fidei integritate, non mediocre

[1] *et et* MS.

aut vulgare propugnaculum. Habes et nunc nobiscum filium, tue frontis expressam imaginem pre se ferentem; cujus ingenuitatem ita diligimus et vehementer amamus, ut facile speremus in eo superiora fortune beneficia jure locanda esse. Hec quoniam firmissima argumenta sunt veteris amoris tui, non veremur impresentiarum probitatem tuam et hortari et rogare, ut hunc nostrum amorem principi nostro serenissimo planissime aperias[1], demonstresque illi, id quod verissimum est, serenitati sue nos futuros deditissimos. Sanguinem certe tuum usque adeo amamus, ut vanum credamus ad superiora amoris nostri argumenta ulla superaddere testimonia. Et igitur, prudentissime domine, prudenter semper vale.

328.

To the King: Henry VII.

If there be any who should in a special degree celebrate your praises at this time of universal joy, surely that part is ours, both because your foes were ours also, and the foes too of letters; and because, while your victory was won over an enemy greatly superior in numbers, you used it with admirable clemency and moderation, punishing only a few of the guilty and sparing all besides. In this, superior to Hannibal, whose victories were his ruin, you have overcome pride and anger, the companions of victory, harder to vanquish than victory itself, and in whose defeat fortune gives no aid. A peace, then, so obtained is peculiarly ours, for moral virtues are our special study, and we should indeed be thankless if we expressed no joy. May we hope you will condescend to support and protect our University, the more because your own learning distinguishes you above other princes, and the patronage of our studies will crown your military fame; as the granting of liberty to Athens was in Alexander the noblest action of a glorious life.

1485. Si qui sint ex omni Britannia—sicuti sunt—serenissime princeps, qui rerum gestarum tuarum felicitati gratulari, laudesque tuas celebrare in hac omnium communi letitia precipue debeant, nos profecto, ni fallimur, ii sumus; nec injuria, tum quod in hac tua tam celebri victoria nos quoque nostros hostes, imo litterarum omnium adversarios, preclare vicimus; tum quod iis artibus partam victoriam es moderatus, equitate, modestia, magnanimitate, prudentia; quas hec nostra achademia veluti suas peculiari quodam jure vindicat. Nam, quod ad bellum attinet, nunquam post hominum memoriam neque majori animi magnitudine neque majori prudencia bellatum est, quippe tanta celeritate tamque parva manu fusis infinitis hostium copiis.

[1] *apperias* MS.

Quod autem ad victoriam moderandam attinet, usus es, quod alias nunquam fere factitatum est, summa quidem et equitate et clemencia. Posteaquam enim in malemeritos, dictu paucissimos, equissime vindicatum est, ceteros omnes incredibili misericordia conservasti incolumes: qua quidem re non tam hostes quam ipsam victoriam, quod est omnium gloriosissimum, vicisse nostra sentencia visus es. Vicit quidem hostes Haniball, sed victus est victoria; non enim cohibere poterat iracundiam atque superbiam, victorie comites; a quibus tamen turpius erat vinci quam ab hostibus. Has tu singulari clementia, equitate, modestia, mansuetudine superasti. O gloriosam hostium victoriam, felicius victam quam victricem! vincere quidem hostes plerumque felicitatis est, vincere victoriam omnino virtutis est: illud multorum est, hoc paucorum. Quocirca, cum hec tua tam salutaris victoria et precipuam nobis peperit pacem, et iis virtutum parta sit adjumentis, in quibus omnium moralium disciplinarum studia versentur, non potuimus gloriam rerum a te preclarissime gestarum silencio preterire; ne vel tanto beneficio indigni vel tantis virtutibus ingrati videremur. Reliquum est ut nos, tam eximiarum virtutum tuarum fiducia freti, tuam amplitudinem regiamque majestatem supplices oremus atque obsecremus, ne graveris hanc tuam amplissimam Universitatem, optimarum disciplinarum virtutumque singulare domicilium, sustinere ac tueri. Quod tanto libencius facere debebis, quanto majori ipse preter ceteros hujus etatis principes doctrina polles atque preluces. Nec dubitamus ex ea re maximum tibi glorie cumulum ad tuas bellicas laudes accessurum: quod quidem Alexandro **Fol. 149 b.**
magno, ut qui Athenas, litteratissimam Universitatem, libertate donaverit, merito contigit. Perge igitur, invictissime princeps, ut cepisti, et quibus artibus imperium nostramque salutem comparaveris, iisdem conserves, augeas atque propages. Quod ad nos attinet, curabimus ut tuo presidio digni semper existimemur, et vale.

Sigillatio acquietanciarum.

Vicesimo secundo die Aprilis sigillate sunt acquietancie Abbati et **1486.**
conventui de Osney, pro viginti sex solidis et octo denariis.

Item, eodem die sigillate sunt acquietancie Abbati et conventui de Ensham, pro tribus libris octo solidis.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of money by the guardians of the Chicheley Chest.

Hec indentura, facta anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo **1486.**
octogesimo sexto, undevicesimo die mensis Junii, testatur quod nos,

magistri Willelmus Hadley, Johannes Edmundis, et Thomas Knygth, deputati per Universitatem Oxoniensem ad custodiam ciste de Chicheley, recepimus bona Universitatis dicte ciste pertinencia ad summam subscriptam se extendencia: In primis, in pecuniis et cautionibus sufficientibus de clara sorte ciste, centum decem libras quinque solidos octo denarios. Item, recepimus indenturam Thome stationarii, factam inter custodes nos precedentes et ipsum stationarium, cujus summa se extendit ad viginti quinque libras quatuordecim solidos; quam ipse tenetur predicte ciste restituere. Summa tota centum triginta quinque libre undeviginti solidi octo denarii.

329.

To the Dean and Chapter of Windsor.

Presentation of master T. Raines to the vacant Chantry of Windsor, vice R. Pevesey resigned.

1486. VENERABILIBUS Decano et Capitulo collegii domini regis infra castrum de Wyndesore Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus magistrorum reverentias debitas et honores. Ad cantariam perpetuam vestre jurisdictionis in collegio vestro, de magnificentia Christianissimi principis Edwardi quarti, nuper regis Anglie et Francie, nuperrime fundatam, et ad nostram nominationem et presentationem ex donatione ejusdem plene spectantem, et nunc ex juris presentatorii [vigore][1], cessione magistri Roberti Pevesey, ad nos devolutam, dilectum nobis in Christo magistrum Thomam Raines, in artibus magistrum, nominamus et presentamus; supplicantes quatenus dictum magistrum, Thomam Raines, ad predictam cantariam admittere, ipsumque canonice in eadem capellanum instituere, ceteraque peragere, que vestre in hac parte incumbunt jurisdictioni, dignemini intuitu caritatis. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo sub sigillo nostro communi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo*[2] *sexto, die mensis Octobris vicesimo primo.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1486. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russel, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Edmundum ffroceter, Robertum Arderne, ejusdem procuratores recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis

[1] *vigore* omitted in MS., but see epistle 332, p. 506. [2] *octuagesimo* MS.

cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum secundo, vicesimo septimo die mensis Novembris.*

330[1].

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Your services have been and still continue so great, that there is no one of our sons for whose health we are so solicitous as for yours; and to speak of even the smallest kindness you have done would require a letter of wearisome length. We should have written to you earlier, but it occurred to us that, were it known we had written, our having done so might be misconstrued, as though we had accused or defended the man whom we have presented to you charged with high treason. We postponed our letter therefore, to a more propitious occasion; and now, to be brief, the purpose of it is to ask your assistance in the case of one of our bedels, who has been served with a sub-pœna. To obey this summons would be a violation of our privilege, and with one voice we agreed that it would be better to die than suffer the University to be disgraced or injured, which we trust can be averted by your interference.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, divina 1486.
providencia Cantuariensi archiepiscopo, totius Anglie primati Cancellarioque dignissimo Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Quotiens in nobis memorie commendamus, reverendissime pater, quanta semper antehac tua in nos atque in nostram rempublicam merita extiterunt, quantaque jam sint—quod jam pridem neque obscuris certe argumentis compertum habuimus—longe majori et gaudio et tue valetudinis cupiditate afficimur, quam unquam alterius cujusquam nostre Universitatis alumni, quem hec nostra etas dederit, cupiditate afficiebamur: neque injuria, quoniam neque eum ex nostris alumnis,

[1] At beginning of this letter the date occurs as follows, *die mensis Februarii R. A. sexto, anno Domini*, &c. What the large capital letters *R. A.* mean does not appear, but very probably they belong to the previous acquittance, and are the initials of Robert Arderne, Proctor; and the letter following, being very close to the acquittance, has been so written as to take them into the first line. Again, on the margin in a contemporary hand is written *Mr. A.*, and under the two capital letters is written the address of the epistle, *Reverendissimo*, &c. *Mr. A.* again is probably Mr. Arderne.

Fol. 150 a. de quo tam gaudere jure quodam possemus, in hoc nostro seculo natum existimamus. Si nos omnia in medium afferremus, quorum minimum, si eo vocabulo in rebus tam arduis uti liceat, tete singularissimum nostre reipublice defensorem arguere posset, prius tuam dominationem tedio afficeremus, quam dicendi finem faceremus. Scripsissemus litteras tue paternitati paulo ante hos dies, si id, quod conjecture habuimus, nihil impedimenti dedisset. Cogitavimus apud nos, missis litteris nostris eam apud aliquos cogitationem conjecturamque fore, ut is quem tue dominationi de crimine lese majestatis presentavimus, vel a nobis accusari vel excusari putaretur: quorum neutrum, etsi libenter fecissemus utrumque, per nos fieri cogitari fortasse debuisset. Nos igitur, salutem nostre reipublice sedulo curantes, tanquam rem gratam tue dominationi facturi, litteras pro ea vice, quo nil sinistre conjecture erga nos esset, apud nos ipsos retinuimus. Id tamen cause jam nobis est, reverendissime pater, quod ad tuam sanctitatem et litteras dare et abs tua dominatione auxilium petere nos omnes urgeat vehementer; qui tanquam ad patrem naturalem, qui in filios semper propitius est, quotiens res et cause expostulant, ad tuam sanctitatem auxilium petituri confugimus. Res in summa est:—Quidam serviens publicus nostre Universitatis, quem precipuum inter ceteros omnes et habemus et reputamus, brevi quodam jampridem monitus est ad comparendum sub pena. Cui rei, quamprimum in medium apud viros consulares nostros proposita est—quia contraria statutis et privilegiis nostris, que neminem ex servientibus nostris ad forinsecum judicem sine eorumdem privilegiorum violatione evocari permittunt—vehementissime ab omnibus est reclamatum: adeo certe ut nulli reperiri possent, qui brevi non parendum esse penitus non censuerunt. Putamus vero atque verissime scimus, haud brevi tali, cujuscunque generis sit, parendum esse, sine manifesto omnium nostrum perjurio atque dedecore sempiterno: qui, si tua dominatio aliquid auxilii—id speramus vehementerque rogamus—hac in causa prestiterit, potius nobis omnibus moriendum esse duximus, quam rempublicam nostram in nostris temporibus aut nullam, aut effractam, aut in ullo violatam esse sinamus; quam te defensore accepto integerrimam semperque valituram speramus. Et optime valeat tua prestantia, sanctissime pater ac domine, noster benefactor singularissime. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, octavo Idus Februarii.* Tue dominationis cupidissimi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus.

331.

From Robert Gaguine, Superior of the Order of the Holy Trinity of the redemption of captives.

To wisdom, the main object of your studies, justice is so closely united, that we feel confident in making this appeal to you in the interests of our order. The Chapel of the Holy Trinity outside the East gate of Oxford was given by the founder to us, and had long been in our possession, when it was fraudulently sold to the civic officers of the town. We are now endeavouring to recover our property, and we think that, with your help, it will not be a difficult matter. We beg therefore that you will assist our provincial, whom we have appointed to act for us herein, and we would remind you that, if we recover the chapelry, we shall place therein persons of our order; who being engaged in the studies of the place will submit themselves to your authority, while not neglecting their duties as religious. It will be a great thing for our brethren to obtain a footing at Oxford, to quaff the sweet source of knowledge, and thence to shed abroad the dew of heavenly truth.

DOCTISSIMIS et sapientie amantissimis viris, Commissario et regenti- **1486.**
bus Universitatis studii Oxoniensis. Cum ad vestram sapientiam pro nostro officio scribere suscepissemus, viri doctrine et sapientie amatores, existimavimus ea nos a vestra liberalitate facile posse impetrare, que et vestre dignitati et meo ordini conducere possint. Sapientia enim, cui schola vestra dicata est, adjunctam sibi justiciam ita habet, ut religionem non excludat; sed eos in suo jure tueatur, qui rem sui ordinis non segniter curant. Est itaque in suburbano Oxonie ad portam urbis, que orientem respicit, capella divine Trinitatis vocabulo constructa: quam loci ordinator cum nostro ordini donasset, longo illam tempore possessam nostri fratres incoluerunt: donec quidam, Johannes Wodell, qui ecclesie nostre, que est apud Hondeslow, prefectus olim minister, eam ad magistratum Oxoniensem nobis inconsultis improbe traduxit. Et velut alienationem nostre possessionis iniquus venditor optimo jure transegisset capellam ipsam magistratus Oxoniensis obtinet; exclusis inde justissimis possessoribus. Nunc ergo, que nostra sunt repetentes, capellam nostram ab iniquis possessoribus vindicare conamur. Ad quos conatus nostros si vestra manus atque auctoritas accesserit, neque arduum neque difficile erit predia nostra recuperare. Oramus preterea vestram sapientiam atque equitatem ferre opem provinciali nostro, quem recuperande possessionis actorem statuimus. Nam si in capelle possessionem restituti erimus,

ponentur in ea viri religiosi et litterarum sectatores; a quibus Universitatis vestre[1] studii obsequium habere possit, qui et vestro honori studere et nostro ordini consulere non negligent. Facietis profecto rem nostre religioni perpetuo memorabilem, si vestris auxiliis fratres
Fol. 150 b. nostri in vestra academia locum obtineant; ubi doctrine fluenta suaviter bibant, unde queant in plurimos spargere rorem celestem. Valete, viri optimorum studiorum cultores. *Ex Parisiis die sexto Novembris.*

Subscriptio hujus epistole.

Vestre sapientie observantissimus amator Robertus Gaguinus ordinis S. Trinitatis de redemptione captivorum major minister.

332[2].

To the Dean and Chapter of Windsor.

Master R. Pevesey having resigned the office, we hereby nominate and present Master John ffrenshippe to the Chantry of Windsor; and beg that you will be pleased to admit and canonically institute him to the same.

1486. VENERABILIBUS Decano et capitulo collegii domini regis infra castrum de Wyndesore Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus magistrorum reverentias debitas et honores. Ad cantariam perpetuam vestre jurisdictionis in collegio vestro, de magnificentia Christianissimi principis Edwardi quarti, nuper regis Anglie et Francie, nuperrime fundatam, et ad nostram nominationem et presentationem ex donatione ejusdem plene spectantem, et nunc ex juris presentatorii vigore, per liberam resignationem magistri Roberti Pevesey, ad nos devolutam, dilectum nobis in Christo magistrum, Johannem ffrenshippe, in artibus magistrum et sacre theologie scolarem, nominamus et presentamus: supplicantes quatenus dictum magistrum, Johannem ffrenshippe, ad predictam cantariam admittere, ipsumque canonice in eadem capellanum instituere, ceteraque peragere, que vestre in hac parte incumbunt jurisdictioni, dignemini intuitu caritatis. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, sub sigillo nostro communi, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo sexto, die mensis Januarii decimo nono.*

[1] *vestra* MS. [2] This presentation occurs in the MS. as here placed after No. 331, and on the margin is written, by the same hand, '*hec presentatio duas epistolas immediate prescriptas anteponenda est.*'

333.

To the University from the Dean of Windsor[1].

MAYSTERS procurators, I commande me unto you, certifying you that the nobyll prynce, Kyng Edwarde the iiiith, ordeyned & stabelysshyd a chauntre of ii prestys, of the whiche the oon ys presentyd by our moder the Universite off Oxenforde; the whiche now stond voyde by resignatione made by M^{r}. Pevesy, the whiche resignatione ys w^{t} you now, as I am enformyde. Wherfor it nedith nott that I and my brethern intymatt unto you undyr owre commyn seale off the vacation off the same; wherfore please you to provyde for an abyll man and a discrete for the same, so that he be a doctor or a scolar of dyvinite, accordyng to wyll of that nobyll prince aforsayde. ffrom Wyndesor the xv day of Januar. Yo^{r} trusty lover J. Morgan D. of Wynds. 1486.

334.

By the King.

To owre trusty and welbelovyd the Regentes of owre Universite off Oxenforde. 1486.

Trusti and welbelovyde, we grete you well: And for as much as maister Henry Erle, huisshere off the gramer scole withyn owre college off Eton, late commencyde in arte withyn owre Universite ther; wherby, accordyng to the laudable constitutions and ordynances off the same, he ys bounde and muste make hys contynuall abode there as necessary regent by an hole yere ensuyng, wythoute he be in thys caas by you dyspensyde; we, considerynge as by report made unto us, owght[2] necessary and behofull the sayde master Henry ys, for the goode and formall contynuance yn lernynge off such chyldren and scolars, which ben att owre exhibition yn owre sayde college; and, yff he shulde be remevede and chaungyde, ther tyme myght turne and slyde to dispendy, which we ne wolde yn any wyse; desire and hertely pray you, that atte contemplation off thise owre lettres, ye **Fol. 151 a.** wyll dyspence with the contynuaunce off his sayde Regencie; so that he may have liberte to be absent from owre saide Universite, and contynew in owre sayde college, ffor the goode eruditione and doctryne of the saide scolars; and that ye wol be appliable this to do, as we truste you; wheryn ye shall do unto us goode pleasure to your singlier thank yn tyme to come. *Yeven under owre signett atte owre cyte Wynchestre, the xviith day of Octobre.*

[1] On the margin is written, in a contemporary hand, '*Nota, presentationem ad nos debere spectare ex eorum consensu, si contingat eos in posterum objicere.*' The letter obviously is anterior to the next preceding and has therefore been misplaced in the MS. [2] i.e. *how*.

335.

To all benefactors of the University. Patent letter[1].

Hereby Master Stephen Browne is appointed our agent, to collect subscriptions for the repair of S. Mary's Church, wherein from old times all our solemn acts, the business of the University, have been performed. The building is in a very dilapidated condition, and requires an expenditure quite beyond our means. You are intreated, therefore, to permit him to lay the circumstances before you, and of your charity assist us in this our need.

1486. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Johannes, permissione divina Lincolniensis episcopus, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarius, cetusque regentium universus in eadem, salutem in omnium Salvatore. Cum nos, Cancellarius et regentes antedicti, in nostre congregationis domo nuperrime congregati, constructionem ecclesie S. Marie, ubi antiquitus solemnes[2] et jam indies per nos celebrantur, sedulo curaremus; cumque etiam nostre facultates ad ea perficienda opera minus sufficerent, dilectum nobis in Christo, magistrum Stephanum Browne, nostrum procuratorem constituimus per presentes, ad intercedendum et interpellandum nostros benefactores, petendum et recipiendum, pro nobis et nomine nostro, quicquid nostri benefactores ad idem opus elargiri dignabuntur. Vobis igitur humillime supplicamus, quatenus nostre paupertati compatientes, ipsum ad nostrorum negotiorum declarationem admittere, nobisque in tantis negotiis succurrere dignemini intuitu caritatis. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, sub sigillo nostro communi anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo*[3] *sexto, die mensis Februarii vicesimo sexto.*

To Master Stephen Browne.

It has ever been, and is, our disposition to value highly those who love and help us, and though, in the great distress we have been suffering, we have not written to you for some time, we love you no less than if you had received a letter every day. The pestilence daily carried off some of the citizens; and, to our great grief, some also of our congregation. Others, fearing the infection, have fled to places of safety; and our numbers are consequently very much reduced, and we feel unfit for business. To

[1] This letter presumably was sent to Mr. Brown, and exhibited by him, as his credentials, to those whose assistance he invited. [2] *actus*, of course, omitted here in MS. [3] *octuagesimo* MS.

a man of your generous sympathies this is enough. We are proud of what you have already done for us and intreat you to continue in the same mind. The University Church, the scene immemorial of all our solemn acts, is so dilapidated, and the leaden roof is so thin, that the rain comes in as if it were an unroofed court, and the cost of repair must be great; we beg you will take in hand the work our letter (inclosed) sets forth; and you will confer a great favour upon us. Be assured of our very sincere affection.

HUMANISSIMO viro, magistro Stephano Browne, Universitatis Oxoniensis amantissimo. 1486.

Venerabili et dilecto viro, magistro Sthephano Browne, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Quanquam nos ejus animi semper antehac fuimus semperque erimus, vir humanissime, ut eos, qui nos et dilectione et beneficiorum multitudine prosequuntur, non parvi unquam faceremus; in ea tamen miseria temporum incidimus, ut jam id genus ingratitudinis nobis ascribi posset, idque per te, quem, etsi nihil ad te jam diu litterarum dedimus, non minori dilectione sumus prosecuti, quam si nostras litteras et reciperes et legeres cotidie; qui, si temporum malitia nobis impedimento non fuisset, non jam primum has nostras epistolas[1] legeres. Jam diu est ex quo pestis, que quosdam ex nostris concivibus adhuc cotidie occupat, in Oxoniensi Universitate invaluit; qua quosdam etiam ex nostro senatu periisse doluimus vehementer atque jam dolemus. Id quum reliqui ex nostris viderent, periculum quod imminebat ex aliis facientes, sese in diversas orbis partes, ubi nulla erat morbi illius suspicio, contulerunt. Quare noster senatus Oxoniensis usque in diem hunc hodiernum et rarior et ad scribendum tardior efficitur. Putamus hanc nostram excusationem apud te, cum vir multum humanus sis, satis probatum iri. Non possumus quin tibi vehementer gratulemur, vir humanissime, pro tua in nos non modo egregia voluntate verum beneficiis; que qualia sunt res ipsa satis ostendit. Rogamus te ut eam rationem nostre salutis habeas, quam te semper antehac habuisse apertissimum est. Tanta est vetustas ecclesie nostre, in qua actus nostros solemnes fere omnes celebramus, tantaque laminarum plumbearum tenuitas, que haud parva argenti summa reparari possunt, ut eam intrantes contingente pluvia tedio afficiat, adeo ut tanquam apertissimis impluviis infusa nulli tutum sine humiditate locum relinquat. Rogamus ut id diligenter cures, quod he littere nostre volunt: qui si id laboris pro tua humanitate capesseris, rem nobis omnibus non minus gratam quam

[1] *litteras* written over in contemporary hand.

necessariam facies. Vale. Id tibi volumus persuadeas, te nobis carissimum fore. Iterum vale. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, tercio Kalendas Marcias.* Tue valitudinis cupidissimi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus.

336.

Fol. 151 b.

To the King.

It is well known that you are anxious to show favour to those who deserve well of their country, so that we have felt sure, on debating our affairs, that what is of importance to our interests will be agreeable to you. When the bishop of Lincoln, our Chancellor, presided in our convocation in the first year of your reign, of many matters discussed some were settled, but the more important were postponed until his next visit; because affairs of state then demanded his presence. He promised, however, to come to us this Lent, but we have received no tidings of his journey; and, as we suppose him to be detained by business of your royal council, we beg that you will permit him to pay his promised visit; for matters of vital importance to our welfare require his presence.

1486. Illustrissimo atque victoriosissimo principi, Henrico, Dei gratia regi Anglie et Francie.

Illustrissimo principi Henrico Dei gratia regi Anglie et Francie, Universitatis Oxoniensis protectori singularissimo, commissarius ejusdem universusque regentium cetus sese cum omni reverentia commissos faciunt. Cum ad congregationes et consilia, quibus ad salutem nostre reipublice indies versari oportet, nos jamdudum contulissemus, Christianissime princeps, putavimus maxime ea, que expedienda habebamus atque habemus, abs tua celsitudine eo facilius consecuturos, quo tam tue majestati grata quam nostre reipublice necessaria utiliaque esse videbantur. Sapientia enim tua atque misericordia, qua nulli aliquando regum justitiam etiam sibi adjunctam ita habet, ut neminem in toto hoc tuo regno Anglie de sua republica benemeritum reperiri facile erit, cui tua majestas et favorem et opem non ferat libentissime. Hec omnia quotiens in te, princeps victoriosissime, esse conspicimus, ad te, regem illustrissimum, ad te, regem misericordia plenissimum, ad te denique, regem longe omnium justissimum, preces in justissima causa ferre non timemus. Sedente reverendo in Christo patre ac domino, domino Johanne, divina providentia Lincolniensi episcopo, tue Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellario, in convocatione magistrorum regentium et non-regentium anno primo tui regni, multa circa rempublicam Oxoniensem coram e diversis,

quibus respublica carissima est, proponebantur; quorum aliqua, que leviora erant, expediebantur, alia vero et ea, quorum expeditio et majorem difficultatem et nostre reipublice utilitatem continebat, in suum proximum ad nos reditum, tum propter temporis brevitatem tum maxime propter ardua supervenientia regni negocia, que tuam celsitudinem concernebant, expedienda reliquit. Qui tamen, nostre reipublice tandem misertus, in hac jam presenti quadragesima nobis omnibus rogantibus ad tuam Universitatem iter facturus, coram in tanta doctissimorum virorum multitudine, promiserat. De ejus ad nos accessu nusquam audivimus; quare non possumus non existimare illum tuis sacratissimis consiliis ita deditum, ut nulla nostri memoria apud eum prorsus relinquatur. Oramus igitur tuam celsitudinem, Christianissime princeps, ut quem te nostrum defensorem accipimus etiam nostre reipublice auctorem sentiamus; quorum primo nihil humanius, altero vero principi nihil laudabilius: qui, si predicti reverendi in Christo patris ad ea exponenda, quibus sine nostram rempublicam prope casuram timemus, ad nos accessum probaveris, rem perpetuo memoratu dignam, tue majestati non inutilem atque cetui Oxoniensi et gratam et vehementer ad salutem omnium necessariam profecto facies. Et diu valeat tua egregia majestas, misericordissime princeps. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, tercio Nonas Marcias.* Tue majestati deditissimi tue Universitatis Oxoniensis[1] universusque cetus in eadem.

337.

Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, divina providentia Lincolniensi episcopo, Cancellario Universitatis Oxoniensis dignissimo.

Though it would be much more agreeable to us to invite you to repose, than to the undertaking of farther labours; yet, knowing the subject to be one greatly involving our prosperity, we fear not to write. Every one knows the energy and zeal you show in the management of our affairs, and how much was accomplished—would that all had been so—on the occasion of your last visit. If time had then been granted, we should not have to write now. We entreat you to come here as soon as possible; for our difficulties cannot be removed by us without your aid, though with it they can be easily arranged.

REVERENDO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, divina providentia Lincolniensi episcopo, Cancellario Universitatis dignissimo commissarius ejusdem universusque regentium in eadem cetus sese **1486.**

[1] *Cancellarius* omitted MS.

commissos faciunt. Quanquam nobis longe jocundius optatiusque esset, sanctissime pater, tuam sanctitatem ad ocia quam ad labores et vigilias subeundas rogatum ire, tamen, quia id cum nobis tum nostre reipublice, cujus semper amator defensorque extitisti, conducere putamus, ad tuam paternitatem liberius scribere non pertimescimus. Nemo est qui nescit, presul sanctissime, quanto cum studio quantaque cum diligentia et cura nostre reipublice negotia—utinam omnia—abs te jamdudum, cum apud nos esses, pertractata fuerant. Qui, si temporis longitudo nostrorum negotiorum veritati atque multiplicitati[1] par tum fuisset, neque ad labores iterum capessendos tuam paternitatem rogare, neque ad te litteras, ut id quamprimum faceres, rursus dare
Fol. 152 a. compelleremur. Multa enim sunt, egregie pater, utilitatem integritatemque nostre reipublice tangentia, que, etsi per nos non sine maximo nostro discrimine plene reformari possunt, tua auctoritate et gravitate facile finem sunt habitura. Hec omnia qualia sunt in tuo ad nos adventu, quem jam proximum esse speramus, ex nobis dicentibus accipies facillime. Rogamus igitur tuam paternitatem, presul dignissime, ut nostre reipublice ratione habita ad nos quam citissime iter habeas; quod—non dubitamus—te facturum pollicerere, si scires quanta et tui videndi cupiditate et habendi necessitate afficimur. Id volumus tibi persuadeas, neminem ex nostro senatu esse cui tuus accessus expectatissimus non sit. Quod si nobis id rogantibus concesseris, nihil unquam tuo nomini celebrius seu nobis gratius quicquam efficere possis. Et diu valeat tua sancta paternitas, presul egregie. *Datum Oxonie tue congregationis domo, tercio Nonas Marcias.* Tue valetudinis atque dominationis cupidissimi, commissarius tue Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium in eadem cetus.

338.

From the Bishop of Lincoln.

Your letters, both that to the King and that to myself, came to my hand on the road twenty miles out of London. I was sorry that we had only our riding costume; our academical dress—without which it would be very unseemly to visit you—having been sent by another route, and several of our retainers, two in particular,—whose services are indispensable in the performance of any duties at Oxford,—have gone to their homes. In the meantime here we are, struggling along by unknown cross roads, doing in person the work neglected by our coadjutor all the

[1] *multiplici* MS.

last year. If Master Thomas Randolf, with full instructions from you, as to what you wish, will meet me at Buckingham, I will do my best to serve you with as little inconvenience to yourselves as possible.

DIU expectate littere vestre ille, et quas regie celsitudini et nobis destinastis, hesterno sero nos offenderunt ad vicesimum quintum lapidem extra urbem regiam Londoniarum. Doluimus nihil habere nos nobiscum nisi quod equitantes—ni equites inepti dicam [1]—deceat: togatorum [2] profecto insignia, sine quibus dedecorosum foret ad vos accedere, per aliam viam transmissa sunt: multique ex servitoribus nostris, duo presertim, sine quibus officium nostrum apud vos commode exercere [3] non possumus, ad conjuges, ad parentes, ad suos penates pro tempore dimissi sunt. Laboramus interea cum paucis per viam obliquam et incognitam; exequentes ea propria in persona, que per coadjutorem nostrum toto anno superiori negligenter omissa fuere. Inveniemur per Dei gratiam apud Bukyngamam, ad tercium Idus instantis mensis seu die sequenti. Quo si advenerit magister Thomas Randolf, instructus per omnia de votis vestris, curabimus, quoad in nobis facultas erit, quamque minori detrimento poterimus, vestris desideriis inservire: prout latius rem omnem eidem magistro Thome litteris significavi. Cui sicuti [4] mihi fidem, queso, habere dignemini, et valete, doctissimi et amantissimi viri. *Octavo Idus Marcii ex Woborn.* Johannes Lincoln: Cancellarius Oxoniensis, manu propria. 1487.

339.

By the Kyng.

TRUSTY and welbelovyde, we grete you wele. And where as we late, ffore certen grete and urgent caases touchynge owre personne and the quietenesse off thys owre realme, sent fore the bysshoppe of bathe, reseaunt wtyn owre Universite there, to come unto us; he, obstynatly leyng aparte hys naturall deuty and observaunce, refused to obey owre commaundement yn that party: wherewyth we nethere were nere yett be content or pleased. And fore as muche as we be enformyd that he there contynueth, usyng certan practyses prohybyte by the lawes off holy church, and othere damnabyll conjurecies and conspiraes, as it ys probabylly shewyd, as wele agenst us as to þe subversione off the universall wole and tranquillyte off thys owre realme; and, as we be assured, he makyth nott hys abode there as **Fol. 152 b.** a scolare and student, as evydently apperyth by hys demeanynge; 1487.

[1] *dicamur?* [2] *togutorum* MS. [3] *exerciri* ib. [4] *secuti* ib.

ffore he nethere ys contrybutorye unto the charge commynly ore syngulerly borne amonge the scolars, ner dothe or exercisyth the opyn fayte as apperteynythe, ne yett ys matriculate; but, to theffect he myȝt be taken and reputyd as a student there, schamfully lurkyth and hydythe hymmselff; neþe profytynge to hymmselff neþe to that oure unyversite ne none othere personn, to the rebuke off all prelacye; ffore the whiche causes and fore othere consyderatyons us movyng, we send fore hym ayene atte thys tyme by oure trusty and wolbeloved chaplayn, master Edward Wylloughby; and seynge, as itt ys notaryly knowen, that he cann nott be accepted as a scolare; desire and pray you that ye wyll se oure sayd chapelayne may have the conveyaunce off hym unto us, withowte any lett or ynterruptione; aidinge and assystyng hym fore the perfite execution thereoff. And yff ye will take and repute hym as fore a scolare, as we hold it undowted—all thyngs circumspectly foresayn—ye wyll nott do, that then ye, usynge yor owne autoryte, wyll send hym unto us by such persons as belonge unto you; which ye may doo wtowten breche off yor privyleges. And yn so doyng, we assure you we shall, yn any yor resonabyll request ore pursuite unto us, be as good and favorabyll lorde unto, as evere were eny off owre nobyll progenytours. And, yn othere wyse doyng, we assure you ye shall yeve us cause to attempt suche weys, fore the achevynge off owre entent yn the premisses, as we shal be drevene unto of necessite, and as shall nott be unto yor pleasure. *Yeven undere oure sygnett atte oure manore off Schene, the viith day off March.*

340.

Littere domini episcopi Cantuariensis ad Universitatem Oxoniensem[1].

Your case is quite clearly explained in your letter, and I have not suffered anything to be done adverse either to the dignity of our common University or the interest of your bedel. I shall always use my best endeavours to advance your welfare, and have a special interest in any cause of yours. As to the present case, the bearer of this will explain to you my opinion.

1487. Litteratissimi viri, post debitam commendationem, &c. Ex litteris vestris jamdudum nobis redditis querelam vestram intelleximus, atque ob illius vestre, imo nostre, Universitatis reverentiam nihil hactenus fieri permisimus, quod servitori vestro publico nocere posset aut

[1] This title is written on the margin, but by a contemporary hand.

debeat. Dabimus omnem operam, atque pro virili nostro contendemus, ut rempublicam vestram, cujus causas semper commendatissimas habebimus, omni semper et officio et pietate prosequi videamur; atque ut libertates ejusdem antea concesse et hactenus usitate integre atque inviolate permaneant. In hac autem presenti causa quid mentis atque sententie habemus ex presentium tabellario latius atque plenius intelligetis. Et diu valeat litteratissimus atque celeberrimus senatus vester. *Datum in manerio nostro de Mortelake, septimo Idus Apriles.* Totus vester, Johannes Cantuariensis.

341.

To the Bishop of Lincoln. Fol. 153 a.

Your elegant epistle was a disappointment to us; a disappointment, however, less hard to bear since it is the performance of your pastoral duties that has detained you. We were sorry to hear that you have been deprived of the services of your escort, as also that we suffer the loss of your visit to us, at a time when the occurrence here of events quite unparalleled makes your advice very necessary. Our messenger is thoroughly acquainted with our circumstances; and since we repose absolute trust in him, we need not, as we otherwise should, to write a long statement for your perusal.

Reverendo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, divina providentia Lincolniensi episcopo, Cancellario Universitatis Oxoniensis dignissimo, commissarius ejusdem universusque regentium cetus in eadem sese cum omni reverentia commendatissimos faciunt. Posteaquam tue elegantissime littere ad nos jamdudum perlate sunt, egregie presul, expectate nostre jocunditati dolor quidam haud mediocris accesserat: quem eo levius apud nos ferendum duximus, quod, boni patris et pastoris labore suscepto, rem tuo gregi et necessariam et plurimum salutarem faceres. Doluimus profecto tam te, visis illis nostris superioribus litteris, tuis caruisse, quam nos te nostro singularissimo adjutore ad tempus privatos esse. Quem non neglectum, —nihil enim nobis eo verbo dedecorosius—imo carum eque habemus atque Romanus populus Pompeium magnum aliquando habuerat; ut hi—utimur Cicerone—beatissimi esse videantur apud quos diutissime commoratur. Multa apud nos indies tam admiranda quam inaudita unquam antehac eveniunt, de quibus omnibus magister J. R., quem et fide et dilectione singularem non sine suis meritis prosequimur, tuam venerandam dominationem certiorem faciet. Nos, si tabellario de nostre reipublice statu minus docto uteremur, his multo longiores 1487.

litteras ad tuam paternitatem scriberemus. Et diu valeat tua sancta paternitas, dignissime presul et cancellarie.

Datum Oxonie in tue congregationis domo, tertio Idus Marcias. Tue reverende dominationis cupidissimi, Commissarius tue Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regentium cetus in eadem.

342.

By the Kyng.

1487. TRUSTY and welbeloved we grete yow welle: And where as we have understand, that at the reverence and contemplacyone of our wretyngs now late unto yow direct, and by our trusty and welbeloved Chaplayne maister Edmunde Willoughby unto yow delivered, ye, ensuyng our wille and desyre comprised yn our said letters, have made so grete and diligent serche[1] wtin that owre universite, that, after your long labors and devoiris done in that partie, finally ye attaigned and come unto the place where the Bysshop of Bath secretly, wtout any resonable cause, had hid him: Wherupon ye full laudably have put hym in such kepyng and suertye, as it shall lye yn your powers at all ceason, upon your pleasure knowen yn that behalf, to deliver and send him unto us: ffor the which your gud[2] and toward disposicion and lovyng dealyng in the premisses, we hartili thanke yow, assuryng yow, that yf ye, for thaccomplesshment of owre sayd commawndment, procede forthward as ye have begonn, ye shall finde us unto that our universite as good lorde as ever were any of our progenitours, and so remembir it as in the same may be hadde a perpetual memori of us in tyme tocum. And for so much as it ys now in your power to deliver the saide bisshoppe unto us, we, not dowting but ye wille soo doo, considering your saide towarde begyn-
Fol. 153 b. nyng, send unto yow at this tyme owre trusti and welbelovyd servant Edmunde Hampdene, oon of the squyers of our body, for the receiving of the said bysshope of yow, and his conveyans unto us; desiring and prayyng yow, and never the lesse upon payn of forfaiture of your priveleges, and upon your allegiaunce straiteli chargin yow, that, wtowte any ferther delay or other excuse, ye send unto us the saide bisshop by oure saide chapelain and servant. Wherein we wote wele ye will make noo defalt ne obstacull by reason of your privileges, which he cannot enjoie, ne of any other frivoll allegacion by hym laide to the contrari; calling wele to your remembraunce, how that he ys no scolar studient, and that the vigor and auctorite of your saide

[1] *enserche, en* crossed out, MS. [2] *gudde, de* crossed out, ib.

privaliege, as it wos by us confirmed, hangeth at our pleasure and grace; wheryn, and in alle other your resonable desires, upon your good demeaning yn the premisses, whereof we make no doubt, ye shalle finde us your favorabulle good lorde. *Yeven under oure signet at our monastery of Churchsey, the xiiii day of march.* fforther more, we in lyke wise charge yow, that unto oure said chaplayn and servant ye deliver those persons, and ich of theym, that, for thavoiding of the said bisshop, and to thentent ye sholde not have foon him, conveid him from place to place and hid him.

343.

By the Kyng.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd we grete yow wele: And where as we late dyverse tymys have wretyn unto you for to have delyveraunce of the bysshop of Bathe, we can nott yet by suerlye answeryd from owre trusty and welbelovyd clerke and chaplen Mastyr Edward Willoughby of thaccomplisshment of oure entent in thys partie; howe be it we have from you pleasaunte answerys and wordys and none or lytyl effect off dede: where of we marvel gretly, assertaynyng yow that we have caused our recordys throughly to be serchyd and oversawen, and it cannot be founde that ye have eny franches or lyberteis for to retynewe wt in yow any personnes ayenst whom treason is alleged, ner that any suche shulde have eny refuge to oure universite there, for theire suertis amongs you. Where for we wol and straytly commande you, that ye suffyr oure servant, brynger hereoff, to take the sayde Bisshop and to bryng hym unto us, wt owte any resistence lett or contradiction of eny personne or personnes of our sayde Universite; assuring yow that, yff ye of obstynacye refuse to obeye thys our commaundment, we shall not only sende thyder suche power as oure entent in thys partie shalbe undowtly executed and fulfylled, but also provide for the punnishment off your disobeissaunce in suche sharpe wyse as shalbe to the ferfull example of them so presumyng or attemptyng heraftyr. *Yeven under oure signet at oure monastry of Charlesey, the xxii day of Marche.* 1487.

344.

To the King. Fol. 154 a.

So grave is the subject of our letter that, were it not for the danger threatening the very existence of our University, we should be as much afraid to write as to act at all in the matter. We cannot defend the

cause, for to do so would displease you and do ourselves an injustice: yet, on the other hand, to do nothing would make us seem useless to our own University and worthless citizens of the state. On every side we are beset with danger, and cannot tell what to do. Permit us to state how the matter stands. Upon receipt of your letter, we went to the bishop of Bath and Wells, but, though in all other matters we should greatly prefer to be his advocates rather than his accusers, we found it very difficult to come to an interview; and, when at last we succeeded, a great part of the day was spent in disputing the question. The bishop, in short, refused to go to your Majesty, not because he feared to appear before you—in whose goodness he has confidence—but from a conviction that he would be murdered before he reached your presence; nor, though we undertook to provide him with an escort, could we remove his apprehension; and, unless personal violence is employed, we think he will not obey your majesty's summons. Now, we will not detain him here, nor, on the other hand, dare we use any force to remove him, lest we fall under the censures of the Church. We pray that, seeing his presence here is only trouble to us, you will so manage the matter that we may not suffer; and thereby add to all your previous goodness the greatest benefit of all.

1487. SERENISSIMO principi Henrico, Dei gratia regi Anglie[1] Francieque metuendissimo, protectori Universitatis Oxonie singularissimo, Cancellarius ejusdem universusque regencium cetus in eadem sese cum omni reverencia et subjectione commendatissimos faciunt. Tametsi ea est magnitudo hujus cause, de qua ad tuam regiam celsitudinem scripsimus, Christianissime princeps, ut non minor in scribendo quam agendo timor nos occupet, tamen quia et nostre reipublice salutem et periculum continere visa est, de ea scribendum esse statuimus: quam si defenderemus—quod non facimus—rem tue celsitudini ingratam atque nostre reipublice vehementer iniquam nos fecisse arbitraremur. Sin vero in causa nihil agemus, tam nostre reipublice inutiles quam optima republica indignos esse tua majestas facillime judicare posset. Undique metus, undique periculum est. Et quid potissimum hac in causa fieri debeat maximeque expediat, non satis facile cogitatu. Que cum ita sint, reliquum est ut tuam majestatem et misericordiam ad audiendam causam supplicissime imploremus; qui neque temere quicquam definire neque agere in tanta causa, tua celsitudine non consulta, apud nos decrevimus. Postquam illas litteras quartodecimo die hujus mensis abs tua celsitudine signatas, atque ad nos idibus Marciis perlatas, convocatione regencium et non-regencium facta pub-

[1] *Anglieque* MS.

lice legeramus, accessimus ad reverendum in Christo patrem Bathoniensem episcopum, ut ea que ipsis litteris inscripta erant illi aperte significaremus. Qui, quanquam eum in causis tuam celsitudinem non tangentibus, longe magis excusare quam incusare cupimus, aditum ad eum satis difficilem nobis vehementer rogantibus tandem prebuit. Tum vero ad colloquium illius admissi, magnam ejus diei partem altercando consumpsimus. Is vero reverendus in Christo pater, visis et lectis ipsis litteris, respondit se ad tuam celsitudinem iter non esse facturum; non timore vidende tue celsitudinis, quem Christianissimum principem profitetur, sed eorum, qui, si ejus verbis utamur, priusquam tuam celsitudinem adeat, eum gladiis confossuri impeterent. Promisimus, his auditis, quosdam ex nostro senatu una cum illo ad tuam serenissimam magestatem proficisci debere; qui eum inter eundum tutarentur. Is omnino negavit se iter habiturum; quem, nisi a domo sua ejectus sit, nullo unquam tempore ad ad tuam celsitudinem venturum putamus. Nos vero, quantum in nobis erit, neque illum retinebimus, neque, cum sub religione sumus, ad illum excludendum vim aliquam facere audemus, ne a censure ecclesiastice impunitate nos ipsi alieniores esse non judicemur. Rogamus igitur tuam prope divinam clemenciam, qua ceteris prestas, invictissime princeps, ut hujus reverendi patris mora apud nos, que multo majoribus perturbationibus quam gaudiis nostram rempublicam affecit, eandem in nulla ejus parte lesura sit. Quod si feceris—facere autem potes—tue Universitati, superioribus temporibus a te non conservate solum sed etiam ornate, maximus ex hoc tuo facto beneficiorum cumulus accedet. Et semper valeat tua magestas, serenissime princeps. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, octavo Kalendas Apriles.* Tue nobilissime magestati deditissimi, Cancellarius tue Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque regencium cetus in eadem.

345[1].

The generosity of your disposition towards us and your sympathy are clearly to be discerned in your letter; and we doubt not that what you do will be of that nature which makes the memory of the good survive them. The presence of the bishop of Bath and Wells within our walls is such a calamity, that where to turn and what to do we know not, to preserve our independence. If we surrender that, our liberty, our very life is gone. You alone can save us, and in so doing will perform one of those noble actions, which raise men above humanity. Our messengers will tell you the details of our troubles better than we can write them.

[1] No address, probably to the Bishop of Lincoln.

1487. REDDITE sunt nobis Idibus Marciis, sanctissime pater, prestantissime littere tue, ex quibus facile erat tuam egregiam in nos atque in nostram rempublicam liberalitatem, humanissimum preterea atque
Fol. 154 b. sanctissimum animum perspicere. Nihil enim in vita tam egregium quam aliquid tale efficere, quod etiam post mortem suum factorem reviviscere atque vivere faciat: quod de te fore non ambigimus. Tam est afflicta nostra respublica, quod reverendus in Christo pater, Bathoniensis episcopus, iisdem nobiscum menibus continetur, ut quo nos ipsos vertamus, aut quo modo nostram rempublicam defendamus haud satis intelligamus. Putamus te natum esse ad nos atque nostram rempublicam salvandam: sine cujus auxilio hec ipsa, que tibi ab ineunte etate semper carissima fuit, jam prope casura est. Eam si prodimus, libertates prodimus, salutem prodimus. Omnis prope nostra salus ex te uno pendet, quam si concesseris, rem prope divinam, ut Ciceroni placet, profecto facies: homines enim ad deos nulla re propius accedunt, quam salutem hominibus dando. Quanta tui necessitate Oxoniensis cetus afficiatur, facilius ex dicentibus istis tabellariis, quam ex nostris scriptis accipies. Quod si nos et nostram rempublicam salvam feceris—id profecto speramus—immortalitatem tui nominis futura secula non conticescent. Et semper valeat tua sancta paternitas, presulum dignissime. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, octavo Kalendas Apriles.*

346.

Episcopis Wintoniensi et Eliensi.

The recollection of all you have done for this University in the past encourages us to believe that your exaltation to your present estate has in no wise diminished or changed your benevolent inclination toward us, but rather increased your pleasure in helping those in distress. The presence among us of the bishop of Bath and Wells is so grievous a calamity that we are 'of all men most miserable.' To refuse him shelter would be a great sin, to harbour him against the will of the king would be to break the law. We are in a great strait. We beg that, if you hear of any proceeding being on foot against us, you will with all speed counteract it.

1487. QUOTIENS[1] nobis in mentem venit, quanta tua in nos atque in nostram rempublicam merita semper antehac extiterunt, sancte pater, te inter illos merito censendum putamus, qui et nobis et nostre reipublice maxima beneficia superioribus temporibus contulerunt. Illa

[1] *Quotiens enim* MS.

nobis omnibus mens atque cogitatio est, presul dignissime, illum tuum egregium in nos benefaciendi animum non immutatum aut minutum, ¡mo cum tua nova dignitate auctum esse. Qui si anteactis temporibus afflictis succurrere vehementer es gavisus, jam te vehementissime gavisurum credimus. Nos jam eo deducti sumus, sancte pater, ut nos longe omnium viventium miserrimos esse putemus; quod factum est diuturna mora reverendi in Christo patris Bathoniensis episcopi apud nos: quem a nobis repellere nihil scelestius, fovere autem contra voluntatem regiam nihil iniquius. Angustie sunt nobis undique. Rogamus igitur tuam paternitatem, dignissime presul, si quid contra nos agi intellexeris, id omne pro tua in nos, quam speramus, summa benignitate citissime cures. Nihil enim hac tempestate nostre reipublice gratius seu utilius quicquam efficere potes. Et semper, &c. *Octavo Kalendas Apriles.*

347.

By the Kyng.

TRUSTI and welbeloved, we grete yow wele: And aswele by the 1487.
continue of your lettre to us late presented, as by thexperiens of your dedis, we perceive at large your firme and faythfulle disposicion towards us, ffor the which we hertily thanke yow, and pray you therin Fol. 155 a.
to continue. And for asmoch as ye drede to rynne yn the tymorous censurs of the church, yf ye shulde lay handis upon the bisshoppe of bathe, and have besouȝth us not to breke the libertes of your privileges and franchises; We, in salvation of the same, send thider at this tyme Edmund Hampden steward of your seid liberteis, and our trusti and welbeloved servant and squyer for oure body, James Parkar, this berar, to attache the said bisshoppe, and hym theruppon to bring and convey unto us, to such place as we have appointed and commanded theym. Upon whom, yf any Rescous or resistence bee attempted to be made, we pray yow to yeve unto thaym youre good and lovyng assistence, soo that thay may duely execute oure said commaundement. And ye shall fynd us as tender liege lord un to you concernyng thentretement of youre said liberties, and yn alle wother reasonable behalves hereafter, as any oure noble progenitours have been yn tymes passed; Whereunto ye may have suer confidence. *Yeven under oure signet at oure monasterie of Chartisey, the xxvii day of Marche.*

348.

By the Kyng.

1487. TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete yow wele. And for certayn consideracyons us mevyng[1], we wol and charge yow, that callyng unto you oure trusty and welbeloved chapellayn master Edwarde Willogby,—to whom ye be greatly beholdyng for the good reaport that he hath made divers tymes unto us of you,—ye furthwith, aftre th' syght hereof, bryng th' bysshoppe of bathe from thens, as he now is, unto sum such college, aboute the myddes of our Universite of Oxenforde, as ye shal thynke convenient; and there see hym surely kept tyl after thys nexte Estre, and then to see hym delyvered to our servant, Edmund Hampden, your steward there, and to our sayd Chaplain; to whom we have shewyd theryn oure further pleasure: aidyng and helpyng them to your poware, to the sure perfurmyng of the same, not faylyng yn any wise thus to doo; as ye entend to please us and wolle answere unto us herin at your perell. *Yeven under owre signet at our monastery of Bury, th' ix day of Apryll.*

Fol. 155 b.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1487. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Joannem Hobille et Willelmum Bokkyng, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo octavo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum Anglie tercio.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

1487. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Cancellarium Universitatis Oxoniensis, Joannem Hobille et Willelmum Bokkyng, procuratores Universitatis antedicte, recepisse et habuisse, in die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum

[1] *moving*, corrected in the same hand over the line in the MS.

bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam solutione cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo octavo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum Anglie tercio.*

349.

From the King.

TRUSTY and welbiloved we grete yow wele; and doubte not but 1487.
that ye have freshly yn your remembrance what writings we have sundry tymes sent unto you, for the deliverance of the Bisshoppe of bath, and what answers ye have made unto us ayein of the same: aspecialy lately, which was that ye wolde suffre oure servants to take him and to convey hym where hit shuld please us. Whereuppon we send thidre at this tyme oure trusti and welbiloved squyer, Edmund Hampden, willing and straitly commaunding you so to ordre and directe the scolers of oure Universite there, that oure saide servant may take and convey from thens the said Bisshoppe unto such place as we have appointed him, without any lette, obstacle or interrupcyon of theim or any othir wtyn oure town there: and that ye see this oure commaundment to be observed and obeid, upon the payn of forfaiture of youre fraunchises, and avoydyng othre daungiers that to you may ensue, at your perill. *Yeven undre oure signet at oure cite of Conventre, the xxvi day of April.*

Testimonial letter for Master S. Embroock.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere 1487.
pervenerint, &c. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum semper cura fuit honestissimos eorum labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare: eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere, et alios ad proficiendum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus igitur nobis magnas et egregias virtutes reverendi viri, fratris Socswini Embroock, ingentemque in theologico studio doctrinam non mediocribus vigiliis comparatam, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimis, primum bacallarii, tandem in eodem doctoris, gradibus illum donare. Quibus adeptis eas denique res gessit, que ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis

gloriam spectarent. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram reverendi benemeritique viri commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo*[1] *septimo, die mensis Novembris duodecimo.*

350.

Fol. 156 a.

From the King.

1487. Trusty and welbelovyd, we grete yow wele: and where as we bee enformed that Jhon Harrys, oone of the Bedellys of that oure Universite, for certayn causys hym moeving is in full wille and purpos to surrendre his right and title in the sayde office, to the use and be hove of oure welbelovyd subget, Richard Dagenhal, and to noon oþere personne; We, for the fast mynde and lovyng dysposition, which the same Richard hath borne unto us acordyng unto his duete, accepte and repute hym in the good chierte and favor of oure grace; Desiring and prayyng yow therfor, that, the saide surrendre made as itt acordith, it will like you, at oure speciall instance and contemplacion, to graunt the saide office to the same Richard bifore any oþere person, after thentent and desire of the saide John. Wherby ye shall singlerly please us, as ye shall perfitly know yn any your resonable desires to be poursued unto us hereafter. *Yeven undir oure signet at oure citye of London, the vth day of Novembre.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1487. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Joannem Hobille et Willelmum Bokkyng, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro consignatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum tercio, vicesimo septimo die mensis Novembris.*

[1] *octuagesimo* MS.

351.

To the King.

If our thanks seem feeble, we entreat you to believe that they seem so only because your goodness is so great that we cannot thank you as we would. No gift could be more acceptable than the forty oaks you have presented to us for the repair of S. Mary's Church. This building, the scene of all our solemn acts, is in such a dilapidated state that, unless workmen are soon employed, it will fall, and so large that a greater sum than all we possess in the world would rebuild but a small portion.

ETSI pro immortalibus vestris in nos nostramque rempublicam beneficiis minores gratias agimus quam ipsa beneficia vestre majestatis exposcere videntur, serenissime princeps, rogamus tamen suppliciter, ne id nostre illiberalitati potius quam tantorum beneficiorum magnitudini tribuatur. Fatemur enim, semperque fatebimur, vestra in nos atque in Oxoniensem rempublicam beneficia tanta extitisse, ut dignas vestris meritis gratias verbis exequi non valeamus: quod non obscure accepimus ex hiis que in Universitatem Oxoniensem a vestra celsitudine liberalissime jampridem profecta sunt. Certissimum namque est ecclesiam illam S. Marie, que ceteris ornatior in vestra Universitate esset, quod ibi solennes actus ad profectum studii et Christiane religionis augmentum celebrare consuevimus, in brevi casuram esse, si nulla artificum manus tante vetustati opem quamprimum allatura sit. Non sufficiunt nostre vires ad tantos sumptus subeundos: qui, si ad tanta edificia multo majores quam sunt omnes nostre divitie exponeremus, vix ullam illius portiunculam perfectam relinqueremus. Id cum vestre majestati signatum est, quadraginta quercubus nos liberalissime donastis, in vestri nominis memoriam sempiternam vestreque Universitatis decorem non mediocrem. Nihil nobis ista vestra liberalitate jocundius esse potuit. Et semper valeat vestra majestas egregia, serenissime princeps. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, decimo Kalendas Maias.* 1487.

Acquittance of Osney Abbey. Fol. 156 b.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistros Joannem Hobille et Willelmum Bokking, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney viginti sex solidos octo denarios: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos fore solutos, et eos inde 1487.

acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, secundo die mensis Martii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum tertio.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1487. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistros Joannem Hobille et Willelmum Bokking, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Enysame quinquaginta duos solidos: De quibus quidem quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos fore solutos, et eos inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, secundo die mensis Martii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum tertio.*

A gift of forty shillings acknowledged.

1487. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russelle, Lincolniensem episcopum, et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistros Joannem Hobille et Willelmum Bokking, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, quadraginta solidos, per manus magistri Joannis Vesey, ex dono magistri Joannis Thorpe: De quibus quidem quadraginta solidis fatemur nos esse solutos, et eundem magistrum Joannem Vesey acquietamus per presentes, sigillo nostre Universitatis signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, duodecimo die mensis Martii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum tertio.*

352.

To the King.

We are very sorry to find that a letter of an improper character has been sent to you by some members of our body, purporting to come from the University. In reality but few were present at the time, and the messenger pressed for a letter, which was accordingly sent off in a hurry. To-day, in a full house, we desire to correct the error, and implore you to believe that nothing in any way capable of offending you, was done by us intentionally. We all are agreed in acknowledging that we owe your majesty all obedience and honour, as our sovereign lord, and as patron and founder of this our Corporation. We desire, in conclusion, to thank you again for your gift of timber for S. Mary's.

DOLEMUS plurimum, serenissime princeps ac domine noster metuendissime, evasisse dudum manus aliquorum nostratum litteras non satis dignas, que vestre celsitudini tanquam ab hoc corpore presentarentur. Paucissimi namque pro tempore affuerunt, quorum judicio littere ejusmodi, nuncio magis importune quam opportune petenti, tradite fuerunt. Hodie nos in majori, ut decuit, numero congregati pristinum errorem refellere cupientes, oratam—utinam exoratam—vestram majestatem his novis litteris facere decrevimus, ut nihil per vestram Universitatem nobis consciis factum esse credatur, quod vestram celsitudinem in re minima offendere posset. Fatemur quidem, et una omnium voce recognoscimus, tantum nos debere majestati vestre et subjectionis et honoris, quantum soli uni principi ac domino nostro metuendissimo, tanquam patrono et fundatori istius celeberrimi corporis debeatur. Quam quidem mentem nostram fecimus, et semper faciemus, divina opitulante gratia, firmis in vestram majestatem studiis confirmari. Ad postremum, repetendas fore statuimus gratias erga celsitudinem majestatis vestre de lignis concessis ad reparationem ecclesie principalis dicte Universitatis vestre; sine quibus, et aliarum multarum rerum necessariarum adjumentis, brevi futurum est ut desit locus, in quo omnes precipui actus scolastici in illa vestra Universitate celebrari honorifice consueverunt: quod Deus avertat, et concedat celsitudinem vestram diu videre dies bonos, ad summum vestre celsitudinis beneplacitum et nostrorum studiorum, ut speramus, felicissimum incrementum. *Datum in domo congregationis Universitatis vestre Oxoniensis, pridie nonas Maias.* 1487.

353.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

So great have been your services to us that there is no one whom we love and revere more, and whatever praise or prayer we have uttered for these benefits seem weak to express all we owe you. We are extremely sorry that a meaning, so entirely misrepresenting our real feeling, has been put upon the letters lately sent from us to the King. We have a shrewd suspicion that we know the persons to whose judgement we owe this distorted view; and that, had they understood what we wrote, they would have formed a more correct opinion. We very earnestly beg you to endeavour to counteract, as well as you can, the injustice done us.

EA sunt vestra in nos jam merita, sancte pater Cancellarieque dignissime, ut quem magis diligamus, aut quem magis veneremur preter vos habeamus neminem. Quicquid enim nos vel laudis vel 1487.

precis pro vestris in nos amplissimis meritis effundimus, dignissime Cancellarie, semper nos ipsos minus nostro officio erga vestram sanctam paternitatem fecisse et arbitramur et judicamus. Dolemus vehementer, reverende pater, nostras proximas litteras regie celsitudini perlatas in tam iniquam atque alienam nostris mentibus interpretationem fuisse extortas. Conjecturam certe habemus quorum judiciis ipse nostre littere commisse relicteque fuerunt: eorum profecto, qui, nisi fallimur, si recte litteras intellexissent longe veriorem quam faciunt sententiam edidissent. Hec cum ita sint, vestram reverendam dominationem, cui plurimum nos ipsos debere fatemur, iterum atque iterum rogatam habemus, ut melioribus quibus poterit modis ingratissimorum interpretum refellat immanitatem. Quam rem si in nostre Universitatis decorem vestra sanctitas effecerit, nos omnes letitia haud mediocri afficiet. Et semper valeat vestra sancta paternitas, reverende presul, ac noster Cancellarie dignissime. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, pridie Idus Maias.*

354.

To the same.

There is not a member of our body but feels the depth of our obligation to you: and when we heard of your resignation of our Chancellorship, we were very sorry that we have nothing to give of greater value than that office. We do not of course forget our humble position so far as to flatter ourselves that any little thing we can offer is worthy of your acceptance; but we have given the best we could. There are some of our members—what they aim at we are at a loss to know—whose action hampers us in our dealings with you. We beg you not to take this amiss, but to accept kindly the offer of the best we have.

1487. QUOTIENS vestra in Oxoniensem rempublicam merita magnitudinemque beneficiorum cogitamus, Cancellarie dignissime, nemo est in tanto regentium cetu, cui respublica Oxoniensis cure est, quin sese vestre paternitati devinctissimum esse fateatur. Doluimus profecto vehementer, beneficentissime presul et Cancellarie, cum primum de vestra resignatione certiores facti essemus, nihil nos ipso cancellariatus officio majus habere, quod vestre paternitati pro tantis vestris in nos beneficiis conferre possemus. Putamus nos, ratione habita vestrorum in nos beneficiorum, vix aliquam his nostris muneribus gratiam vestre dominationi referre posse. Non sumus tam nostri immemores, ut nobis
Fol. 157 a. persuadeamus preclarissimis et immortalibus vestris erga nos meritis nos hac tantula re satisfacere posse. Quod tamen habuimus—ut apud

Terentium—summum persolvimus pretium; qui etsi liberius in hac causa cum vestra paternitate—nescimus quorsum aliquorum nostratum mentes tendunt—non agimus, iterum atque iterum vestram clementiam rogatam habemus, ne id egre ferat. Rogamus preterea vestram reverendam paternitatem, dignissime Cancellarie, ut hec nostra munera, quibus majora non habemus, benigno gratoque animo suscipiat. De ceteris omnibus, que reipublice Oxoniensi utilia esse videbuntur, isti nostri tabellarii vestram reverendam dominationem certiorem facient. Et semper valeat sancta paternitas vestra, dignissime presul et cancellarie. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, undecimo Kalendas Junias.*

355.

To the same.

Though your election to be our Chancellor was a most happy one, the circumstances which shortly followed, threatening to render it void, were very disagreeable to us. Now however a complete change has taken place, and those, who before hindered the freedom of our choice, are now most anxious that your services as Chancellor should be retained. We now have to lay before you two resolutions recently carried; first, that your election was perfectly fair; and second, that no condition as to residence or non-residence was attached.

Etsi pulcherrima fuit ipsa electio, in qua vestram paternitatem 1487.
una omnium voce in Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium elegimus, in qua etiam integerrimus omnium amor erga vestram dominationem facile perspici potuisset, dignissime presul; non equa tamen mente suscepimus ejusmodi tempora postea esse secuta, in quibus illam nostram electionem frustratum iri arbitrabamur. Alia est profecto jam ratio omnium rerum; quoniam ipsi, qui antea impedimento fuerunt, quominus libere progredi potuimus in ea causa quo libebat, mutata sententia, quamquam sese quibuscunque in rebus, hac causa excepta, vestre dominationi paratissimos fore sepenumero profitentur, tanto vestre sanctitatis amore incenduntur, ut quanta vestra in Oxoniensem rempublicam merita existunt animadvertentes, auctores retinende vestre paternitatis in officio merito censeantur. Reliquum est igitur ut duo, que jam pridem congregati fecimus, vestre reverende paternitati proponamus; cum gratiam illam de non residendo, amota omni conditione, esse concessam; tum vestram dominationem in Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium pulcherrime esse electam. Hec cum ita sint, rogamus vestram reverendam paternitatem etiam atque etiam ut ipsa electio, que nobis omnibus majorem in modum placuit, vestre

dominationi placere possit. Quod si vestra reverenda paternitas in hac nostre reipublice orbitate concesserit, sperabimus in brevi fore ut nostra respublica jam prope dejecta antiquam, idque vestris auxiliis, dignitatem obtineat. Eo namque breviores nostre littere sunt, quod tabellario nostram de eo expectationem et opinionem nusquam fallenti utimur. Et semper valeat vestra sancta paternitas, dignissime presul. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, octavo Kalendas Julias.* d. J. L. E. can°. nup. el.[1]

356.

From the Bishop of Lincoln.

It must have been evident to you, that I resigned your chancellorship of my own accord, feeling the duties of the office to be beyond my strength, but your urgent entreaties have prevailed with me—or perhaps I should say your affection and gratitude oblige me—no longer to refuse the office unencumbered by any condition, as you now make it: And I hope the differences, now happily concluded, will prove of advantage in the future, and that the old order may be restored. It would be a great pity that hereafter a chancellor should be bound by conditions, only submitted to by one who would rather submit to anything than lose the office. I have written a longer letter than I intended when I began; please accept the remarks I have made as proceeding from a sincere regard for you. Our mutual messenger has exhibited to me the particulars of the oath I took on a previous occasion. I shall not fail to do my best for the honour and welfare of your illustrious body.

1487. QUAMVIS animus noster cupidus ut dimitteremur ab officio, nostras hac tempestate vires in immensum transcendente, neminem vestrum, domini et magistri prestantissimi, latere tunc poterat, quum per magistrum Andream eam cessionem ultimo fecimus, ad quam inviti non cogeremur—adeo quidem exuberabant in personam nostram vestre gratie multiformes—devicti nunc tamen, quin magis erga vos devincti, ex repetitis obsecrationibus, affectionibus et gratitudinibus vestris statuimus tam libere oblatum honorem ulterius non refutare. Speramus nihilominus eas, que interciderant, disceptatiunculas, que, sicuti jam informamur, firmo et constanti sanioris partis judicio ad unam usque sententiam et opinionem rediguntur, haud mediocriter futurorum temporum successibus profuturas, ut in presenti hujus reipublice prope dejecte[2]—si vestris verbis utendum sit—statu, antiqui-

[1] i.e., '*domino Johanni Lincolniensi Episcopo Cancellario nuper electo.*'
[2] *directe* MS., but cf. preceding epistle, ad fin.

tatis, que non peccavit, magis memoria habeatur; et singuli singulorum gradus, ita invicem honore prevenientes, suscipiant et exaltent, quomodo in tam preclare Universitatis archivis scriptum, et a doctissimis antecessoribus nostris in usum ab evo deductum esse cognoscitur. Absit ut, propter unius hominis ambitiosi extortam semel ab isto corpore electionem, cuncti succedentes, ii presertim qui neque intrudi neque sponte fortassis in officio constitui cuperent, iis conditionibus impliciti forent, quibus ille—etiam si multo illiberaliores extitissent—non tam meruit quam omni modo potius quam cariturus officio voluit implicari. Longius in hoc articulo evagatus sum quam aut debui aut ab exordio faciendum esse institui: vestras nihilominus caritates interpellans, ut sicut hec a nobis gratissimo in vos animo dicta sunt, ita omnia in meliorem partem accipere et interpretari dignemini; presenti vestro et jam nostro communi tabellario fidem in reliquis habituri. Ille namque summam articulorum juramenti, quod alias prestitimus, nobis inspiciendam exhibuit. Nos autem nihil omittemus, quominus quidquid ad tam preclari corporis ornamentum decusque et utilitatem summam fieri oporteat pro viribus exequamur. Atque ita feliciter valetote, probatissimi et doctissimi domini et magistri. *Datum Bukdene, tertio Kalendas Quintiles.*

357[1]. Fol. 157 b.

Our experience leaves no room to doubt your good-will, or we should have much to say in support of our present petition. And you have now the power as well as the will to help us, so that we do not hesitate to solicit your help in rebuilding S. Mary's Church, now all but in ruins, and part of which, we expect, must shortly fall.

Si de tua in nos voluntate dubitaremus, humanissime magister, quod 1487.
sine nostro dedecore facere non possumus, cum tete erga rempublicam Oxoniensem virum semper humanissimum prebueris, pluribus verbis et supplicationibus in hac Oxoniensis reipublice causa ad te uteremur. Itaque tua prestans natura, que potestatem ita jam sibi adjunctam habet ut nobis atque nostre reipublice plurimum prodesse possit, in eam nos de te opinionem adducit, ut ad te scribere teque, quotiens opus erit, rogare libere possimus. Hec cum ita sint, rogamus te ut ad ecclesiam Beate Marie, que ruine jam proxima est—in brevi putamus fore ut aliqua ejus pars in terram decidat—aliquid conferas, quod ad ejus reparationem vel potius reëdificationem conducere possit. Nos sine amicorum auxiliis ad hec onera non sufficimus. Quare si tuum nobis auxilium paraveris, eum tete jam esse ostendes quem

[1] No address.

semper futurum existimavimus, virum scilicet longe omnium humanissimum. Fac ut sciamus has nostras litteras alicujus apud te ponderis fuisse. Vale, prosper in secula.

358.

To Doctor [Lichfield]?

An occasion now presents itself of showing that affection for this University which has always marked your character in the past. S. Mary's Church is in a ruinous condition, and we have no means of repairing it: we are therefore asking the help of those of our members who are dearest to us. Among them we find you conspicuous for your past kindness, and shall be very grateful for any help you can give.

1487. Ersi pluribus in rebus tete de republica Oxoniensi benemeritum semper fuisse perspeximus, litteratissime doctor, quare te et gratiis et laudibus merito efferendum censemus, ea tamen nunc causa sese offert, in qua te nostre Universitatis alumnum gratissimum humanissimumque esse facile declarare possis. Ecclesia utique S. Marie, ubi solemnitates majores in nostra Universitate—satis nôsti—celebrari consueverunt, in illum jam statum adducta est, ut ruine potius quam statui proximior merito dici judicarique possit. Nos hanc nostram ecclesiam prope cadentem, nostrasque nobis pecunias ad tanta edificia perficienda non suffecturas aperte perspicientes, ad nostre Universitatis alumnos amicissimos, inter quos tete egregium satis prebuisti, confugimus. Te igitur etiam atque etiam rogamus, humanissime doctor, ut nobis auxilio esse velis in aliquo quod ad tale edificium tu ipse utile esse judicabis. Volumus tibi persuadeas nihil te nobis gratius facere posse, quam si nos in hac nostra petitione juveris. Quod ut facias nos omnes rogamus. Et semper valeat tua prestantia, litteratissime doctor.

359.

Episcopo Londinensi.

We cannot write without pride and thankfulness, when we think of the beautiful building erected by you here. It is impossible to thank you sufficiently; let us assure you that we feel ourselves bound to you by the strongest ties of respectful obedience. We have been informed, from a source of unimpeachable veracity, that you propose to present us with some very valuable books. If this be so, we offer our heartfelt thanks, and beg that the books may be entrusted to Master Richard FitzJames, who is

our accredited agent for this purpose, and whom we trust as ourselves. The books, when we receive them, shall be chained in your new library as soon as it is ready to receive them.

NON possumus sine precipua quadam exultatione immortalibusque gratiis, quas tue dominationi semper habebimus, de preclarissimis tuis edificiis in Universitate Oxoniensi ornatissime constructis, quicquam vel scribere vel in medium ferre. Tam sunt equidem laude vel potius admiratione digna ipsa tua beneficia, quibus nos liberalissime affecisti, ut neminem ex nobis esse putemus, qui vel laudes vel gratias tantis beneficiis dignas referre cogitareve possit. Reliquum igitur est, presul dignissime, ut quos tantis tuis beneficiis tibi devinxisti, eosdem tue paternitatis observantissimos—id quod verissimum est—semper fore existimes. Multi nos indies certiores faciunt, ipsi profecto, quorum fidem et verbo et re ipsa expertam satis comprobatamque habemus, tete, beneficentissime presul, tanquam id superioris tui in nos beneficii haud suffecturum putares, nonnullos pretiosissimos libros ad nos esse daturum. Quod si in nostram Universitatem facere apud te constitutum habes, infinitas gratias tue paternitati habebimus; etiam atque etiam rogantes ut egregius sacre theologie professor, Ricardus FitzJames, quem eque atque nos ipsos et fide et dilectione prosequimur, quemque nostrum procuratorem in suscipiendis libris constituimus, eos omnes libros habere servareque possit. Ipsi vero omnes libri, quum primum ad nos dabuntur, una cum aliis libris, qui in antiqua libraria Universitatis adhuc sunt, in tuam novam librariam cathenandi citissime transferentur; in perpetuam tui nominis memoriam, perpetuamque—uti speramus atque rogamus—in celestibus regnis mercedem. Et semper valeat, &c. *Quintus Idus Octobres.* 1487.

360[1].

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Our obligation to you for past favours is greater than to any one living; and, were not our present need of a kind peculiarly to appeal to your charity, we should feel ourselves guilty of importunity in making this application. S. Mary's Church, in which from the earliest times our solemn acts—so often graced by your presence—have been held, is in the last stage of dilapidation; and, the parishioners being so poor as to be without the means of helping, the duty of rebuilding it falls upon us, if we would maintain the character of the University. Yet our own

[1] No address, but apparently to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

resources are very small, exhausted by the expense of the new school, and by the diminution of our income from fees, so few men of rank or wealth now presenting themselves for graduation. We beg, therefore, your assistance.

1488. QUOTIENS vestra amplissima in Oxoniensem rempublicam beneficia, quibus eam antea cumulatissime affecisti, nobis in mentem veniunt —veniunt certe frequentissime—tantum nos vestre reverendissime paternitati debere judicamus, quantum nemini mortalium nos debere apertissime fatemur. Qui, cum tanta vestra in nos beneficia esse perspiciamus, ut eisdem beneficiis usque in hunc hodiernum diem nostram rempublicam conservatam esse putemus, vix possumus quicquam
Fol. 158 a. aliud beneficium sine labe quadam procacitatis atque importunitatis a vestra prestantissima paternitate deposcere. Hanc tamen nostram causam ita cum honestate adjunctam speramus, ut archipresulem dignissimum liberalissimumque facile ad prestanda beneficia excitare atque inflammare posset. Causa hec est, archipresul dignissime. Ecclesia Beate Marie Universitatis Oxoniensis, ubi solennes actus nostre Universitatis a nostris majoribus semper hactenus consueverunt celebrari, quos quidem nostros actus vestra reverendissima paternitas presentia frequenter honoratiores esse fecit, tanta temporis vetustate atque debilitate conficitur, ut neminem recte judicantem conspicimus, qui eam ruine proximam esse non censeat. Parochiani vero illius ecclesie tam sunt exiles et jejuni, ut ab aliis opes exigere quam ad hoc edificium aliquas suas conferre malint. Nos igitur, nisi majoribus nostris dissimiles esse volumus, hoc onus edificandi in decorem Universitatis non possumus recusare. Cum tamen de nostris pecuniis numerandis cogitamus—paucissime namque sunt—tum propter novas sacre theologie scholas, non paucis nostris sumptibus, non parva arte laboratas atque constructas, tum propter paucitatem dignissimorum virorum ad gradus admittendorum, per quos Universitas nostra opibus affluentior efficeretur, parochianos illos nullis opibus superare videmur. Rogamus igitur atque humiliter imploramus vestram reverendissimam dominationem, archipresul prestantissime, quatenus aliqua ad hec nostra edificia vestra beneficia esse possint. Nulla nobis in omni vita res magis optata erit, quam ut vestram dignissimam paternitatem tanta in nos contulisse beneficia omnis nostra posteritas admirando atque benedicendo congaudeat, &c. *Undecimo Kalendas Septembres.*

361.

Domino Eliensi.

Though we can plead no services rendered, for which we might be so bold as to ask some acknowledgement in return, yet the subject of our present petition is of a kind to enlist the sympathy and kindle the charity of every good man and worshipful father of the Church. We think, too, that the learning we are happy to know you possess may give us some claim to your consideration. The church of S. Mary the Virgin, the centre of our academical life, is a mere ruin, and must be wholly rebuilt, except perhaps the stone walls; and, as our means are altogether insufficient, we ask the aid of the wealthy and learned, among whom you are conspicuous.

ETSI nostra erga tuam reverendam paternitatem officia ejusmodi 1488.
antea non fuerint, que nos ad magnum aliquod beneficium in nostram rempublicam Oxoniensem abs tua reverenda paternitate prestandum audentes satis facerent, eam tamen honestatem in causa de qua jam scribimus esse putamus, ut facile optimum quemque virum presulemque dignissimum suapte natura ad prestanda beneficia incendere posset. Quam rem tue paternitati ideo patefaciendam esse duximus, quod te litteratissimum doctorem presulemque dignissimum atque liberalissimum esse, id quod nobis vehementer est gratum, compertum habemus. Rogamus igitur te, doctissime pater presulque dignissime, ut hanc nostram causam gratam tibi esse velis. Tam est inveterata ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, in qua actus scholasticos in omni facultate tanta temporum longitudine nostri majores celebrarunt, ut ipsa quoque ecclesia prope casura esse videatur. Hanc utique ecclesiam, si ejusmodi in ea actus in posterum celebrare volumus, propter suam vetustatem non modo in aliqua ejus parte extruere, verum totam ipsam ecclesiam, lapideos tantummodo muros excipimus, de novo edificare necesse erit. Videmus insuper nostras opes ad hec edificia perfecte ponenda haud esse suffecturas. Quare viros prestantissimos atque doctissimos, quorum facile primus es, nostris litteris hac in causa rogatos habere instituimus. Rogamus te igitur, dignissime presul, ut tua in Oxoniensem rempublicam beneficia ea jam esse possint, que tuum etiam post hanc vitam nomen reviviscere faciant. Quidquid enim in nos beneficii contuleris acceptissimum gratissimumque nobis erit.

362.

Episcopo Wintoniensi.

Your hand has ever been ready to help us, and we never needed that help more than at this time; so much so that we are sure, if we do not now make known our needs to wealthy laymen and prelates, we shall afterwards regret our silence, and all wise men will wonder at our neglect. You know how crowded are the assemblies and how distinguished by the presence of the great, at inceptions and other solemn occasions, in S. Mary's Church. The building is now so ruinous from age that we are afraid to enter it when the weather is stormy, and the parishioners being very poor and unable to help, we shall have to rebuild it ourselves. We invite, then, your charitable aid, and such a contribution as beseems your high estate for the performance of a work worthy to be held in everlasting remembrance.

1488. Tametsi vestra in Oxoniensem rempublicam beneficia paratissima semper antehac fuisse nos ipsi scimus, quare perennes immortalesque gratias vestre dominationi semper habebimus, presul dignissime; ille tamen jamdiu temporum conditiones invaluerunt, que nos vestra in Oxoniensem rempublicam beneficia crebris desideriis implorare faciunt. Quod si viros prestantissimos patresque dignissimos, inter quos vestram paternitatem excellentissimam potentissimamque cognovimus, nostris litteris pro habendo aliquali auxilio rogatos non haberemus, in brevi putaremus fore ut nos, cum non pauca sapientium virorum admiratione, id non fecisse, et primum et plurimum peniteret. Res hec itaque est, prestantissime presul, pro qua has nostras litteras vestre paternitati mittere instituimus. Credimus vestram mentem non
Fol. 158 b. facile posse preterire, quanta solemnitate quantaque dignissimorum virorum frequentia actus in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, idque in ecclesia Beate Marie, semper hactenus celebrati sunt. Hec profecto ecclesia tanta jam tignorum ceterorumque, sine quibus nulla edificia diu firma stabiliaque esse possunt, vetustate affecta est, ut ingredientes, procellarum saltem temporibus, illa sua vetustate terreat frequenter. Hanc nos utique ecclesiam—parochiani multum tenues sunt—ut in ea ad decorem Universitatis consueti actus in posterum celebrentur, reëdificemus oportet. Hinc est, egregie presul, quod vestram paternitatem jam rogatam habemus, quatenus aliquod ad hujus ecclesie constructionem vestra nobilitate dignum conferre velit. Quod si feceritis, rem perpetuo memoratu dignam, Oxoniensi reipublice utilem, nobisque vehementer desideratam profecto facietis.

363.

Episcopo Exoniensi.

Relying upon your generosity rather than any merits of our own, we hesitate not to make our petition, in the hope that it will meet with your favour. Our Church of S. Mary the Virgin, to which so many men from all parts of the world resort, to see the granting of degrees, and attend at the inception of masters—which have been there held from time immemorial—is in so ruinous a state that it is dangerous to enter it in stormy weather. Our members are men of narrow means, but anxious to avoid the impending disaster; we therefore beg that you will contribute towards the rebuilding a sum worthy of your exalted position, and thereby at once secure for your name an undying remembrance, and embellish the buildings of the University.

ETSI nullo unquam tempore nostra in te merita tanta fuerunt aut esse potuerunt, dignissime presul, ut tua item in nos beneficia jure aliquo nostri superioris meriti vindicare possemus; in tua tamen benignitate atque humanitate magis quam in nostris meritis fisi, non veremur aliquid abs tua paternitate exposcere: hoc ante omnia rogantes, ut hec nostra causa, vel petitio potius, grata tibi esse possit. Quam ut paucis nos expediamus, hanc esse scito. Ecclesia Beate Marie in Oxonia, ad quam non pauci totius orbis terrarum viri sepenumero accedunt, cum ad nonnullas omnium facultatum admissiones videndas, tum ad magistrorum inceptiones, que ibi honoratissime nostrorum majorum instituto hactenus celebrate sunt, tanta temporis longitudine inveterata est, ut de ruina citissime futura—quod absit—multum suspecta esse videatur, idque in tempestatum temporibus, que ecclesiam illam instabilem vacillantemque reddunt. Quocirca nos hec nostra damna imminentia prevenire amovereque cupientes, magistrorum insuper facultatum[1] mediocritatem nobiscum considerantes, rogamus tuam paternitatem etiam atque etiam, ut aliquid nobis tantam edificii curam subeuntibus tanto patre dignum concedatur. Nihil ad tui nominis immortalitatem nostreque Universitatis decorem magis conducere posse arbitrabimur. Id volumus tibi persuadeas, dignissime presul, qualiacumque tua in nos beneficia erunt, nos omnes tue prestantissime paternitatis amantissimos semper fore. 1488.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Husey et Petrum Casley, 1488.

[1] *facultatem* MS.

ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre convocationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum quarto, duodecimo die mensis Decembris.*

364 [1].

1488. RIGHT honorabill and worshipfull Sir, we comend us hartili to you. For as moch as we, by th' trew assertion and affermation of right worshipfull men, ofttymes have herd of your goode and vertuus disposition, as yn helpyng all suche which have neede of socure and ayde; we be the more bold to desyre that of you, which not only shuld be to owre profite but allso very meritorys to you. It is so, Fol. 159 a. right worshipfull Sir, that th' chirch of our Lady yn Oxonford, where th' actus of our Universite yn Ceason wtowte [2] have be solemnysyed and kepte, is fall yn to dekey; and ys so ruynowse that it most be new bilded. We, consideryng our ynsuffyciency of mony and stuff, bee necessitat to desire such frendis as we have and trust to have. Wee therefore yn most hartyest wise desyre and pray you that it may lyke you sumwhat to doo for us in this our neede and desire. Whatsoever it shall please you to yeve to the byldyng of this our chirch it shal be very accepte to us and to your grete meryte, as we trust yn godd; who preserve you long to his pleasure.

365.

Magistro R. Scherborn.

Your constant desire to be of service to the University has always been a great satisfaction to us, and we cannot but express our thankfulness that your success in life has put you in a position enabling you to give us substantial assistance. Doctor Fitzjames has lately reported your benevolent and unsolicited purpose of assisting us, in a measure such as few beside yourself could afford. None are better acquainted with our circumstances than yourself; we beg therefore that your donation may be such as will cause your memory to be cherished among us.

[1] No address. [2] Something appears to be omitted here, but there is no *lacuna* in the MS.

ETSI nobis gratum vehementer fuit quod Oxoniensi reipublice 1488.
semper prodesse studuisti, humanissime magister, tamen non possumus non confiteri affici nos jam maximis gaudiis, quod in illum jam virum evasisti, pro cujus meritis ipsa respublica, si loqui posset, infinitas immortalesque gratias in brevi esset habitura. Nos equidem nobiscum diu multumque cogitavimus fore ut is esses tandem, qui Oxoniensem rempublicam plurimum juvare posses. Neque nostra jam de te expectatio nos fallit. Nam benefaciendi potestatem tibi optimo fato collatam esse compertum habemus, ut quibus velis benefacere possis. Cum primum de tua in nos voluntate quinto Kalendas Apriles certiores facti essemus per reverendum virum dominum doctorem Fizthjames, non erat facile cogitatu quanta letitia universus cetus Oxoniensis afficiebatur. Is talia in nos tete, idque tua sponte, facturum esse dixerat, qualia paucos in hac tua etate extra te fecisse beneficia ipsa declarabunt. Nemo est qui te uno Oxoniensis reipublice statum melius novit. Rogamus te igitur, humanissime magister, etiam atque etiam ut talia tua in eam beneficia esse possint, que immortalitatis nomen tibi allatura sint. Et vale, &c.

Sigillate sunt littere procuratorie eidem pro scolis juris canonici et civilis sub forma superius scripta.

366.

Magistro Hawardayn, Decano ecclesie Beate Marie 'de arcubus' Londoniis.

We have always regarded you as a friend to the University, and therefore are the more surprised at the issue of citations from your court to divers of our scholars and academical officers, since our privileges expressly make any such citations invalid; and those who procure them are not only liable to penalties in such case provided, but are to be held as violators of the said privileges. In pursuance whereof we have imprisoned a certain John Wryght, not however at the request of those to whom his citations were issued, but because he has violated our privileges. We have only to add that it remains with you to prevent the recurrence of such difficulties by refusing to issue these citations in future.

VENERABILI viro, &c. Etsi nullo unquam tempore illam de te 1488.
existimationem habere potuimus, quin quod optime meritus de republica Oxoniensi semper esses, litteratissime doctor, miramur tamen tales ad nos his diebus citationes a tua curia adversum quosdam tum ex scolaribus tum ex nostris servientibus allatas esse contra nostra statuta et privilegia. Ejus equidem nature sunt que habemus privilegia, ut quascumque citationes, contra aliquem vel scolarem vel

scolaribus servientem adquisitas, nullius momenti aut roboris esse permittant. Quod si procurantes citationes, quod jam fit, reperiantur, merito preter penam ex nostris statutis in hac parte delinquentes inflictam, eorumdem nostrorum privilegiorum violatores censendi sunt. Nos igitur jamdudum quendam Johannem Wryght, super citationum procuratione atque acquisitione contra nostra statuta et privilegia, culpa dignissimum judicantes, tanquam nostrorum privilegiorum violatorem carceribus mandavimus. Nos non processimus ad illius correctionem victi precibus tunc ad ejus instantias citatorum, verum quia nostra statuta et privilegia violare attemptarat. Rem omnem habes, humanissime doctor. Id abs te apprime rogamus, ut nostra statuta nostraque privilegia salva et illesa esse velis, quod non dubitabimus fore si citationes ad nos perferri non permiseris. Et vale. *Ultimo die mensis Aprilis.*

367.

Domino Lincolniensi Cancellario.

Our lack of means alone has for a long time prevented us from laying the foundations of the schools of Canon Law; and now, trusting partly to your great liberality, and partly to the aid of sympathizing friends, we have commenced with a set of men who will do the work quickly and well. We should like to have your approval at the beginning, and being confident of the completion, we shall hope the building will remain a credit to your memory in time to come.

1488. Etsi nostrarum facultatum tenuitas longo jam intervallo impedimento fuit quominus ad scolarum juris canonici ponenda fundamenta audenter satis nos ipsos conferre potuimus, dignissime presul prestantissimeque Cancellarie, jam tamen, partim tue liberalitati, que certe maxima est, partim vero aliorum prestantium, qui in conservanda atque augenda nostra republica pari fere nobiscum cura afficiuntur, auxiliis fisi, ipsas scolas succincta atque ornata artificum manu aggressi sumus. Quod si nostrum studium in initio tantorum edificiorum tuis auxiliis probatum iri videbimus, sperabimus fore ut ipsa edificia, quorum finis haud nobis pertimescendus est, tui nominis immortalitatem in eterna secula paritura sint. In hanc modo reipublice causa sententiam omnes una impellimur, apprime tuam reverendissimam dominationem rogantes, ut optimum nostre reipublice parentem ipsa respublica tete semper habere possit. Et semper valeat tua reverenda paternitas, dignissime presul et cancellarie. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, tertio Nonas Maias.*

368.

Magistro Sherborn.

The confirmation of our privileges having been the subject of debate in our congregation, and the King's message on the subject—procured by Doctor FitzJames—having been read, it was resolved to ask you to undertake the necessary business. If you will add this to your great previous services, you will very greatly oblige us, and we think the Clerk of the Hanaper will be very ready to grant anything you request of him.

CUM primum de nostrorum privilegiorum confirmatione Kalendis Maiis in nostro senatu niteremur, cumque regium scriptum eadem in causa, industria venerabilis viri egregiique doctoris fyzthjames acquisitum, coram eo in senatu ostenderetur, questio publice facta est, quis ex nostris amicis labores tante rei conficiende in se susciperet. Tandem vero unanimi nostrorum regentium consensu postulatum atque rogatum est, ut ad te nostre littere ad istos labores suscipiendos scriberentur. Te igitur his nostris litteris etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus, beneficentissime magister, ut ad superiora atque maxima tua in nostram rempublicam beneficia id jam postulati atque rogati muneris et beneficii accedere possit. Credimus namque magistrum Willelmum Smyth, clericum hamperii, cui hoc regium scriptum per te afferri cupimus, omnia petenti tibi esse concessurum libentissime. Quod si eidem persuadere velis, ut nostra privilegia quam primum confirmentur, rem nobis omnibus quam gratissimam certe feceris. Et semper valeat tua gravitas, humanissime magister. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, quarto Nonas Maias.* 1488.

369.

To Master William Smyth. Fol. 159 b.

Having incurred great risks from the confirmation of our privileges not having been as yet obtained, we have resolved to ask the assistance of our most sincere friends in obtaining it; and naturally apply to you first; both because you have always supported us, and also because you have much influence in this matter. If you will help us, you will do us a service unsurpassed for many years.

HUMANISSIMO atque prudentissimo viro, magistro Willelmo Smyth, clerico hamperii meritissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque cetus magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem plurimam dicunt. Cogitantibus frequenter nobis de nonnullis periculis, que jam 1488.

perpessi sumus, propterea quod nostra privilegia confirmationis robore caruerant; tandem visum est ad Oxoniensis reipublice amantissimos viros pro eorumdem privilegiorum confirmatione esse fugiendum; ad teque in primis, tum quod nostre reipublice amantissimus[1] semper extitisti, tum quod nos hac in causa tua auctoritate plurimum juvare potes. Si igitur nostram expectationem, quam de te semper habuimus, in confirmandis nostris privilegiis non fallis, rem nobis nostreque reipublice longe omnium gratissimam atque optatissimam procul dubio facies. Non potest hac in causa tua diligentia tuumque confirmandi studium non gratissimum nobis probari. Qui, si accepto regis scripto, tete ad nostrorum negotiorum celerem expeditionem receperis, rem tantam in nostram rempublicam ipsum te contulisse existimabimus, quantam vix alius quisquam multos jam annos dederit. Vale.

370[2].

Your exhibitions and other many benefactions, to enable scholars to continue their studies, have been so liberally granted, that we should be ashamed to ask for further help unless it were for very weighty reasons. The school of Canon Law is in so miserable a state that it can be called a building no longer: and in fact we have no place in which the ordinary lectures may be held; we therefore beg, and hope, that you will receive and read our letter with indulgence, for we are compelled to ask the help of the wealthy and great, among whom you hold the highest place. The work is already begun, and, if you will help us to complete it, you will be doing an act worthy of your name now, and of grateful remembrance hereafter.

1488. Etsi tua erga rempublicam Oxoniensem beneficia, tum scolaribus studentibus religiosis exhibitionem conferendo, tum aliis nostre Universitatis scolaribus, frequenter amplissimis donis ad litterarum studia continuanda afficiendo paratissima semper fuerunt, reverende pater, adeo certe ut nobis dedecori esset amplius sine justissima causa abs tua reverenda dominatione vel rogare vel expectare; ea tamen causa sese nobis obtulit, que nos tuam dominationem jam etiam atque etiam petentes etiam rogantes ab omni importunitate liberare videtur. Hujusmodi namque nostra est[3], ut non modo ad tuam prestantiam verum etiam ad aliorum prestantissimorum dominorum, quorum certe primus es, liberalitatem fugere impellimur. Quare si te, uti speramus, ad nostras litteras perlegendas atque exaudiendas receperis, non solum

[1] *amantissimus* repeated MS. [2] No address. [3] *conditio* or *causa* dropped in the MS.

privatis hominibus imo reipublice Oxoniensi tete prodesse scias. Tanta enim antiquitate afficiuntur ipse scole nostre Universitatis, in quibus lectiones ordinarie juris canonici[1] auditoribus hactenus semper, aliquot annis exceptis, ministrari atque[2] legi solent, ut non scole aut domus, sed locus omni domo vel manso privatus atque vacuus merito jam dici posset. Nos vero in nostrorum amicorum liberalitate confidentes, novarum scolarum constructionem reëdificationemque aggredimur. Si igitur tua reverenda dominatio aliquid ad istarum scolarum reëdificationem conferre velit, rem tua dominatione atque perpetuo memoratu dignam, Oxoniensique reipublice vehementer optatam atque gratam profecto facies. Quanta vero petendi necessitate afficimur, noster tabellarius facile declarabit, cui rogamus hac in causa fidem dederis. *Quinto Idus Maias.*

371.

To Master William Spekyngton.

Your relations with us have ever been such that there is no room for doubt of your readiness to help in anything for the benefit of the University; and of this nature is the rebuilding of the school of Canon Law. We need not tell you, whose eyes have seen it during your residence here, that the condition of the building is such that it has not been capable of being used for many years. We hope you will give us something, from the store with which fortune has blessed you, to enable us to remedy a state of things but little to our credit.

DISCRETO viro nobisque plurimum dilecto, magistro Willelmo Spekyngton, in utroque jure graduato benemerito, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universusque cetus magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem plurimam dicunt. Non possumus persuadere nobis, humanissime magister, propter maximum tuum in Oxoniensem rempublicam amorem, quem te semper habuisse non paucis argumentis experti sumus, quin te quacunque in causa, que Oxoniensi reipublice profutura est, libere uti possumus; atque eo cum majore fiducia ad te has nostras litteras consignamus, quod tete in nostram rempublicam amantissimum humanissimumque semper antehac prebueris. Scimus non latere te, imo frequenter vidisse, cum litterarum studio in Universitate esses deditus, quanta vetustate scole juris canonici afficerentur: tanta certe ut non ibi ordinarie lectiones jus canonicum studentibus multos jam annos legerentur. Quod quidem nobis non mediocri dedecori aliquamdiu fuit. Nos vero tandem hoc ipsum 1488.

[1] *canonice* MS. [2] *neque* ib.

dedecus amotum esse cupientes, ipsarum scolarum constructionem jamdudum sumus aggressi. Quod si aliquid de his, que tibi fortuna concesserit, ad istarum scolarum renovationem conferre velis, rem Oxoniensi reipublice non minus gratam quam abs te expectatam tete contulisse scias. Quo in statu respublica Oxoniensis est noster tabellarius te certiorem faciet. Vale, humanissime magister. *Quinto Idus Maias.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

1488. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Johannem Husey et Petrum Casley, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis prese um, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney, viginti sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis et octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, et eos inde acquietatos per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum quarto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1488. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistros Johannem Husey et Petrum Casley, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum: De quibus quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos esse solutos, et eos inde acquietatos per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Data in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum quarto.*

Fol. 160 a.

372[1].

The thirty books, and one on medicine, greatly desired by students, are, as you requested, chained in the new library; and they are the first donation received there. We rejoice very much in this your splendid gift, and still more in the grace God has given you; disposing you to give your riches to the poor while you live. You have put your treasure in Christ's hands; and, when you have slept your sleep, you will find it in your own. Let us not weary you with a long letter, but say only that

[1] There is no title or address in the MS., so that we are ignorant of the name of this benefactor. In epistle 359 we read that the Bishop of London proposed to make a donation of this description, but the style of this epistle, beginning '*Carissime noster alumne*,' seems too familiar to be used in addressing so great a personage.

our prayers shall not fail for your health and long life, if that be good for you; and that, after your departure, we shall celebrate your obsequies and say mass for the repose of your soul.

CARISSIME noster alumne, nos, Cancellarius universique magistri regentes, salutem tibi plurimam affectamus in Domino. Accepimus a tua caritate triginta libros, et unum de medicina, electissimos et a studiosis viris maxime desideratos. Fecimus itaque voluntatem tuam, quandoquidem sunt firmissime cathenati in nova nostre Universitatis libraria; que eos maxima quadam gratulatione propterea suscepit, quod sunt primicie omnium librorum quos susceptura est. Fatemur plane, vir optime, nos plurimum gaudere de tam magnifico dono, quod liberaliter nobis dedisti; sed multo maxime tibi gratulamur de celesti dono gratie, quo tibi Deus misericorditer donavit. Ex te enim non est sed ex dono gratie, quod vivens tuis manibus distribuis bona tua pauperibus; qui te, sicut speramus, in eterna habitacula ducent. Ex Dei gratia est, quod statuisti non relinquere alienis divicias tuas, nec esse de eorum numero, qui dormierunt somnum suum et nihil invenerunt in manibus suis. Et quare in manibus suis nihil invenerunt? profecto quia in manu Christi nihil posuerunt. Tu ergo prudenter ponis thesauros tuos in manu Christi, ut cum dormieris somnum tuum aliquid in manibus tuis invenias. At quid invenies? Revera non divicias hujus seculi perituras, quas nunc pauperibus distribuens in manu Christi ponis, sed divicias celi eternas, quas tunc in manu tua Christus reponet. Cum ergo dormieris somnum tuum, non invenies nihil in manibus tuis, imo manus plenas invenies. Sed ne epistola nimium longa te molestet, finem paucis concludemus. Hanc pro tuis erga nos maximis meritis vicissitudinem promittimus: deprecaturi sumus Deum assidua oratione ut tibi, si expedit, salutem atque longiusculam vitam largiatur; sin vero ab hac vita decesseris, exequias et missam pro tue anime salute celebrabimus. Et feliciter vivas et optime valeas. 1488.

373.

From Master W. Spekyngton.

I learn from your letter, and from what your messenger tells me, how great are your expectations of assistance from me; and I wish it were in my power to satisfy them, for I know that I owe you more than I can repay; and, if I had the means, would gladly use them to adorn our University. That you may not, however, think I do not duly consider your request, I will do something to help. Master Asshetun, who knows my intentions, shall inform you of the particulars.

1488. Non possum quin apertissime intelligam, tum ex vestris humanissimis litteris tum ex vestro tabellario, qui vestro nomine non pauca mecum verba de Oxoniensi republica jamdudum contulit, quanta vestra de me expectatio est ut prosim Oxoniensi reipublice. Utinam possem ipsi vestre expectationi, quam de me habetis, amplissimis beneficiis satisfacere. Scio me longe plura vestris reverentiis atque vestre reipublice debere, quam re ipsa exercere atque probare possim. Quod si tantis opibus abundarem, ut possem vestram rempublicam in aliquo ornatiorem reddere, facerem libenter quod et dominationibus vestris gratum et Oxoniensi reipublice vehementer utile esset. Ne tamen vestram petitionem nullius apud me ponderis fuisse jure existimare possetis, aliqualiter vestram rempublicam beneficiis afficiam. Quanta et qualia erunt, magister Robertus Asshetun, cui me totum in hac causa patefeci, vestras reverentias certiores faciet. Et semper valete, litteratissimi domini mei. *Raptim, Wellia septimo decimo Kalendas Junii.* W. Spekyngton.

374.

From the Bishop of Lincoln.

Your letter has been long on the road; hence the delay in my reply. I approve the commencement of the building, and as I was one of the first to move in the matter, so I shall not, please God, be behind the others who are so readily giving their contributions for the School of Canon Law. You can do as you think best about the money, now lying ready at Oxford: either take it now, or wait for that, and other business pending, until I come; which, God helping me, I shall do soon after Whitsunday.

1488. Sero, undecimo Kalendas Junii, venerunt in manus meas littere vestre de dato tertio nonas Maias; que quidem mora vecture causam prestitit quare ipsis citius responsum non sit. De aggressu edificationis scolarum juris canonici, que vestrarum litterarum ejusmodi materia precipua est, laudo diligentiam omnium eorum, qui ad rem ipsam contribuere dignabuntur. Et nos, qui aliquid inter primos desuper locuti sumus, per Dei gratiam non inveniemur postremi. In vestra optione situm erit an pecuniam promissam, que Oxoniis prompta est, velitis ante nostrum istuc appulsum numeratam vobis in id opus accipere, an super omnibus expectare adventum nostrum, qui, Domino auxiliante, non erit diu post Pentecosten protelatus. Atque ita valete, doctissimi et amantissimi viri. Hoc mane ex Regali collegio Cantabrigie, ubi nonnihil cure impresentiarum nostris humeris imponitur. *Decimo Kalendas Junii.* Johannes Lincolniensis.

375.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

It would be very ungrateful in us not to express the very great pleasure your most kind letter has given us; both because it clearly shows that your kindness to us exceeds our expectations, and also because we shall now soon have you in Oxford. We should prefer to wait for the money until you arrive; and we hope that then others, stimulated by your presence and noble example, will likewise offer some help.

MAGNAM nobis imo verius maximam letitiam attulerunt quam gratissime tue ad nos jampridem littere, dignissime presul prestantissimeque Cancellarie; tum quod nostras omnes cogitationes tuis officiis, tuis, inquam, immortalibus beneficiis, tete vicisse declararunt, tum maxime quod tuam reverendissimam prestantissimamque dominationem Oxoniam versus, non diu post Pentecosten, iter habituram esse significarunt. Hec utique ita nobis grata atque optata sunt, ut utroque nos non plurimum letari esse vehementer iniquum fateamur oporteat. Habemus immortales gratias, quas utinam tue dignissime paternitati pro amplissimis optimisque in nostram rempublicam beneficiis referre possemus. Nos in hac sententia sumus, ut nihil de pecuniis agatur quoad tuam dominationem viderimus. Speramus quidem fore ut, qui tuam in Oxoniensem rempublicam liberalitatem cognorint, aliquid etiam auxilii, presentis optimique patroni exemplo permoti, sua sponte ferant. Et semper valeat tua, &c. 1488.

376[1].

Fol. 160 b.

Though we have often experienced your liberality, and feel that we can never be sufficiently grateful, yet our duty towards our University, as dear to you from your childhood as to ourselves, emboldens us to trouble you with this letter. Our anxieties have been many and great; first about the school of theology, at last completed by the liberality of the late bishop of London; and now about the school of Canon Law, already commenced. We think ourselves justified in asking the aid of our most illustrious sons, and therefore write to you among the first; and request you to give a favourable hearing to Doctor Fitzjames who will explain our circumstances.

ETSI vestram in Oxoniensem rempublicam liberalitatem quam maximam frequenter antehac fuisse compertum habemus, doctissimi viri, quare vos semper immortalibus gratiarum actionibus, vestris 1488.

[1] No title.

meritis id exigentibus, prosequamur oportet; tamen ne eidem nostre reipublice, que eque vobis atque ab ineunte etate cara fuit, his diebus deesse videamur, vos his nostris litteris ejus in causa rogatos habere non pertimescimus. Multas magnasque jam diu curas perpessi fuimus, litteratissimi viri, tum pro schola sacre theologie, que maxima tandem liberalitate reverendi in Christo patris ac domini, domini Thome Kempe, nuper Londoniensis episcopi, ornatissime confecta est; tum vero pro reĕdificatione scolarum juris canonici, quarum fundamenta jampridem posita sunt. Putamus nimirum nos in tanta nostre reipublice causa prestantissimos atque Oxoniensis reipublice amantissimos viros libere rogare posse. Ad vos igitur impresentiarum inter primos confugimus, apprime rogantes ut litteratissimum atque nostre reipublice amantissimum virum, dominum doctorem ffithzjames, qui sic Oxoniensis reipublice amator existit ut non procul ab ejus conservatoribus distare videatur, quibuscunque in causis sepedictam rempublicam concernentibus libenter dignemini exaudire. Quod si feceritis, rem nobis omnibus gratissimam vos fecisse scitote. Et semper valete, viri litteratissimi. *Sexto nonas Julias.*

377.

From the Bishop of Lincoln.

Being requested to advise you of the present position of affairs in the quarrel about the election of the Mayor of Oxford, I have to inform you that the citizens who came to London—in no very united mind on the subject—have all, except such as slunk off or ran home, been bound over under heavy penalties not to disturb the king's peace. If therefore any further disturbance should take place, you are hereby warned and required to lend no ear to either townsmen or clerks. This caution is necessary, because some of those, who were disappointed by the recent decision of the case, are reputed to have expressed their intention, before they went home, of enrolling themselves as scholars' servants, in order to enjoy the privilege. You will therefore do wisely to keep a prudent control over any such persons, whose insubordinate temper is notorious.

1488. Requisitus pro officio, quo in ista Universitate me jam diu in presentem diem donastis, ut prudentias vestras admoneam certioresque reddam quis sit presentaneus status cause turbate electionis super officio majoratus Oxonie, prout apud regalis consilii senatum finaliter consideratum est; vobis significo omnes et singulos oppidanos illius loci, qui ad hanc urbem paullulum discordes in ipsa re convenerant, quotquot sese clanculo non preripuerunt, sive latitantes sive domum

festine reversi, immensis astrictos obligationum vinculis, ne regiam pacem istic qualibet arte disturbent, ne majores suos contemnant, ne ad alios quosque pro suarum singularium affectionum conatibus manutenendis confugiant. Quocirca discretiones vestras obnixius requirimus et rogamus, ut, si qui perturbatores cause tanta auctoritate decise denuo intra vos surrexerint, sive de laicis sive de clericis, nulle favoris vestri aures ipsis prebeantur. Ratio hujus admonitionis nostre inde exoritur, quoniam ab aliquibus, fortasse indignantibus se non assecutos finem quem sperabant, asseritur protestatum fuisse, antequam ab iis finibus discesserant, se nolle amodo stare inter oppidanos Oxonie, sed eniti ut scolarium serviciis ascribantur. Quod quia fieri non poterit, nisi de vestris auctoritatibus admissio ipsorum procedat, sapienter feceritis si talium hominum notissima hac tempestate protervitas vestris modestiis coerceatur[1]. Atque ita valetote, viri doctissimi, tanquam conscolastici et amici mei carissimi. *De prope Londonias, decimo die Octobris.*

378.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

That you should think we lightly regarded your letter was even more painful to our feelings than dishonouring to our character. Be assured, most honoured Chancellor, that we do not so far forget ourselves as to fail in respect to one to whom we owe our existence and safety. But we must not be held guilty of what never entered our minds. On the contrary, when your letter was read, there was no discordant voice in the general expression of satisfaction at the solicitude you show for us, and the weighty counsel given. We thought, however, that it would be best to obey your orders first, and then write to you; which we have done. We trust and earnestly beg you will continue to exercise towards us that benevolence you have hitherto manifested, and which we gratefully acknowledge.

Non tam nobis dedecorosum quam molestum fuit ad nos jam- 1488.
pridem allatum fuisse, vestram reverendam paternitatem id de nobis existimare, quod nulli hominum nisi inhumanissimo atque ingratissimo recte objici posset; vestras scilicet litteras decimo die mensis Octobris signatas parvi apud nos in nostro senatu momenti fuisse. Non sumus tam nostri immemores, reverende presul dignissimeque Cancellarie, ut quid in nostre reipublice conservatorem atque auctorem fecerimus nesciamus. Haud id nobis merito vicio dari debet quod neque nobis

[1] *coerceantur* MS.

in mentem usquam venerat. Posteaquam ipse vestre gratissime littere in nostro senatu Oxoniensi recitarentur, audientes ad unum gavisi sunt, cum et studiis et beneficiis essent in republica gratissime, tum erant gravissimis consiliis plene. Ita erant, inquam, graves ut cui non gratissime probatissimeque viderentur in toto senatu Oxoniensi reperiebamus neminem. Putabamus profecto—id si peccatum est id nostrum peccatum fuisse fatebimur—optimum factu ipsis vestris litteris prius esse parendum quam respondendum, quod certe fecimus. Nam nulla nos hucusque fecerimus que ipsas litteras etiam in re minima offendere possent. Superest igitur vestram reverendam paternitatem iterum atque iterum rogatam habeamus, quatenus eundem te posthac in nos semper prestiteris, quem ante ipsa respublica Oxoniensis, si loqui posset, quamprimum fuisse testaretur, beneficentissimum certe atque longe omnium gratissimum. Et semper vale, &c.

379.

To Master Richard Skipton.

Accept the assurance of our undying gratitude for your benevolent and successful efforts in our behalf. You have always, as we have known, endeavoured to befriend us, and augment our resources with material aid; and now our highest hopes are confirmed. You will find us ready to serve you in any way when occasion may occur.

1488. HUMANISSIMO prudentissimoque viro, magistro Ricardo Skipton, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, &c. Non potuerunt nobis omnibus non gratissima probatissimaque videri, humanissime magister, que in causa reipublice Oxoniensis optime humanissimeque et susceperis et perfeceris. Habemus perennes immortalesque gratias, quas utinam tibi referre possemus, pro tuis in nos officiis omni humilitate
Fol. 161 a. plenissimis. Non est facile cogitatu quanta tibi a nobis debeantur, qui, cum nostre reipublice prodesse, eandemque tuis beneficiis ornatam reddere semper studueris, id tete jam in ipsam contulisse arbitramur quod te optimo atque prudentissimo viro dignum est. Non potuimus non frequenter nobis persuadere tete in nos semper gratissimum fore, quod ipsum apertissimis jam argumentis imo verius re ipsa compertum habemus. At quod nostris de te optatis tandem fortuna responderit habemus immortali Deo sempiternas gratias. Et semper vale, amantissime hominum, et nos illos tibi fore persuadeas, quibus, cum voles, pro tuo jure omnibus in rebus usurus sis. *Oxonie, a nostre congregationis domo, quinto Kalendas Novembris.*

380.

From the Bishop of Lincoln.

I had nothing to say in answer, when your messenger came to inquire, except that I had received your letter, and am glad to find your regard for me unchanged. I trust it will so continue, and will do all in my power to reciprocate your kind feelings.

QUONIAM in die magno festi interpellati fuimus per istum vestrum servitorem mandare sibi si quid Oxonias perferri cupimus, non habentes temporis oportunitatem multa scribendi, id solum inpresentiarum vestris prudentiis significare curavimus, nos accepisse litteras vestras gratissimas, e quibus satis nobis compertum tenemus amorem in nos vestrum: rogantes ut eum nobis atque nostris de die in diem servetis. Ita quidem erit ut spem, si quam habetis, de nostra vestris necessitatibus vicissitudine rependenda, ego ipse viribus totis promoveam. Valete. *De prope Londonias, die Kalendarum Novembrium hora vesperarum.* Johannes Lyncolniensis. 1488.

381.

Domino Petro, Wintoniensi Episcopo, quinto decimo Kalendas Decembres, anno a natali Christiano millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo nono.

To be in favour with the great and powerful must be always agreeable to us, but it is our greatest pleasure and desire to find that we are so highly considered by you, that no appeal we make to you is in vain. We never have done, nor will do anything to displease you; and beg that we may be reckoned among those most closely attached to you, and whose services you can always command.

ETSI nobis non nisi vehementer gratum semper esse potuit nos cum potentissimis prestantissimisque dominis esse in gratia, dignissime presul, id tamen nobis omnibus longe gratissimum optatissimumque profecto fuit, nos nostramque rempublicam tanta apud vestram prestantissimam dominationem valere, ut quicquid a vestra prestantissima dominatione in nostre reipublice causa juste peteremus, nunquam id nos frustra petiisse[1] affirmari posset. Non id nos ullo unquam tempore in vestram reverendam dominationem aut fecimus aut posthac facturi sumus, quod tante dominationi gratissimum non 1489.

[1] *petisse* MS.

fuerit. Cupimus igitur, et rogamus majorem in modum, ut vestra prestantissima dominatio nos sibi amantissimos semper fore persuadeat; atque eos quibus, non secus atque domesticis et amantissimis viris, quibuscunque in rebus juste uti valeat. Et semper valeat vestra reverenda dominatio, cujus, quoad vita nobis mutanda erit, cupidissimi semper erimus. *Oxonie, quintodecimo Kalendas Decembres.*

382.

Domino Johanni Hoody, eisdem Kalendis.

When it was reported to us that you had taken offence at something we have done—when, we know not—we were very sorry. If, however, we have been slandered by some, who, though they love us not, need not have maligned us, treat the matter as a man of your good sense should, and deem us not guilty of a fault until we are proved to be so. We shall always act towards you as one of our most valued friends, and we hope you will not do anything adverse to our interests.

1489. Posteaquam nobis jampridem signatum fuit vestram prestantiam non equo animo ferre ea, que per nos aliquando—quando nescimus—factitata essent, doluimus plurimum tantum virum tantam in nos displicentiam preter omnem nostram opinionem accepisse. Non potest nobis in memoriam venire, prudentissime domine, id nos in tuam prestantiam olim fecisse, quod te nobis alienum jure facere posset. Quod si maledictis eorum, qui nos etsi diligere noluerunt maledictis tamen lacessere non debuissent, in istam de nobis opinionem es adductus, facito quod virum prudentem, qualem te semper esse invenimus, facere decet, ut nihil nobis vitio tribuas quod nos erga te fecisse probari non possit. Futurum est ut, nostro in te animo tandem cognito, amantissimos nos tu esse judices. Pollicemur quidem nos posthac erga vestram dominationem eos fore, quales in quoscunque de nobis optime meritos dignissimosque viros semper antea nos fuisse dicere non veremur. Tuam igitur prestantiam etiam atque etiam rogatam habemus ut nihil in nostram rempublicam te jubente conficiatur, quod eidem obesse possit. Quod si—id speramus—tete facturum esse receperis, ipsi semper in tuam prestantiam erimus, quos merito nullo unquam tempore, atque juste, accusare debeas. Et semper vale, prudentissime prestantissimeque domine. Et nos nostramque rempublicam posthac, si potes, diligito. *Quinto decimo Kalendas Decembres.*

383.

Domino Ricardo Fizthjames, doctori.

Doctor Smyth has informed us that the bishop of Winchester and Doctor Hoody, justiciary of our Lord the King, are angry with us, though we know not wherefore; for we have never been so incautious as to say or do anything calculated to give offence to persons of such distinction. If you, whom we justly reckon as our warmest and best friend, can turn away their wrath by your skilful management, let it be your object to restore us to their favour. We shall be greatly obliged if you will let us know what is the cause of this estrangement; but as to the manner of dealing with it you need no advice from us.

Post salutem et amorem, quem nos maximum erga te et eos omnes, qui in nostra republica tui similes sunt, habere necesse est, te jam etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus ut nostre reipublice curam modo in te suscipere velis. Quum essemus in congregatione pridie Kalendas Decembres, advenit dominus doctor Smyȝth in medicinis, veluti nosti, egregie satis doctus. Is post multa nos certiores fecit dominum episcopum Wintoniensem atque dominum Johannem Hoody, serenissimi nostri regis justiciarium, nobis nostreque reipublice non amicos—quo fato nescimus—esse factos. Tuum igitur fuerit, litteratissime prudentissimeque doctor, qui amantissimus atque primus in nostra republica merito censendus es, istorum potentium virorum prestantissimorumque dominorum mentes et cogitatus in hac parte tua prudentia deflectere, amicabilesque in nos facere. Quid in nos cause habeant, quare nobis jure succendantur, prorsus ignoramus. Non tam imprudentes unquam fuimus, ut quid temere vel dixisse vel fecisse contra tantos viros jam tandem nos peniteat. Id sapientum virorum semper esse putavimus ne dominis sua sponte rem ingratam facerent. Rem igitur nobis gratissimam feceris, si quo in nos animo sint nos quamprimum certiores reddideris. Quod si quicquam egre ferant, etiam de eo nos admonitos esse velis. Quid hujusce in causa te facere necesse erit, nobis non consulentibus satis nosti. Vale, sanctissimarum litterarum interpres dignissime, nosque semper diligito. *Quinto decimo Kalendas Decembres.* 1489. Fol. 161 b.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Noverint universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et Willelmum Hewster et Robertum Boortone, ejusdem procuratores, 1489.

recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum quinto, vicesimo octavo die mensis Novembris.*

384.

Magistro Roberto Scherborn.

Your care and affection for us, manifested by constant exertions in our behalf, have never been so thankfully appreciated as at the present time, and the tangible evidences of your generosity, here before our eyes, are not more valuable than your advocacy of our interests elsewhere. When Doctors Marhow and Fitzjames recently spoke in Convocation on various matters relating to our prosperity, and particularly as to the confirmation of our privileges, they testified to your services; and we believe our success so far is owing to your labours. If the Archbishop of Canterbury by his opposition defers their confirmation, on the ground that we make an ill use of them, we hope you will satisfy him on this point, and assure him of our increased caution in future.

1489. Etsi cum privatis tum publicis in rebus nostris tuum studium nusquam defuisse nobis semper jucunditati fuit, ad multo tamen majorem letitiam modo commovemur te in ejusmodi beneficii genere delectare, quo neque nobis gratius neque, ut arbitramur, tibi honestius esse quicquam potest. Quante equidem cure, quanto denique desiderio nostra tibi respublica semper fuerat compertum satis habemus; tum ex his que nobis domi ante oculos tua summa liberalitate, tua inquam summa prudentia, posita sunt, tum ex his que foris sepenumero in consiliis pro nobis ipse feceris prudentissime. Redierunt ad nos hos prope dies novi testes, probatissimi certe, tui in nos amoris atque benevolentie, domini doctores Marhow et ffizthjames; qui non multo post suum ad Universitatem reditum, convocatione regentium et non-regentium facta, multa de nostre reipublice utilitate, multa de nostrorum privilegiorum confirmatione, multa etiam de tua in nos liberalitate et humanitate prudentissime honestissime atque honorificentissime proposuerunt; siquidem, ad hec tua maxima

beneficia, nostrorum privilegiorum confirmationem addiderunt. Id abs te uno in nostram rempublicam esse factitatam arbitrabimur, quo majus nihil a quoquam mortalium prestari possit. Quod si reverendissimus in Christo pater et dominus noster Cantuariensis, quominus citissime confirmentur, eorum abusum nobis vitio dando, obstabit, rogamus ut eum magis magisque pacatum erga nos tua prudentia reddere in te suscipias; nostro nomine promittendo nos accurate posthac esse facturos, ne tantus error juste nobis unquam imputari debeat. Et semper valeat tua prudentia, hominum amantissime.

Appointment of agents to receive a bequest. **Fol. 162 a.**

Masters T. Wodyngtone, W. Waram and R. Sherborne are hereby appointed to be our lawful agents and proxies, for the purpose of demanding and receiving payment from the executors of Hugh Feenn, deceased, of the money bequeathed by him to us; and we empower them jointly and severally to give an effectual discharge and acquittance to the said executors, or others whomsoever having possession of his effects; and to transact any other business thereto appertaining; and we undertake to ratify and accept their acts.

PATEAT universis per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, divina providentia Lyncolniensem episcopum atque Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, necnon universum cetum magistrorum regentium in eadem, dilectos nobis in Christo magistros, Thomam Wodyngtone, sacrorum canonum professorem[1], Willelmum Waram legum doctorem, Robertum Sherborne, in artibus magistrum et in medicinis bacallarium, viros utique honorabiles et discretos, conjunctim et divisim, ac quemlibet eorum et in solidum, nostros veros et legittimos fecisse ordinasse et constituisse procuratores, actores, factores negociorum nostrorum gestores et nostros nuncios speciales, ad exigendum, levandum et recipiendum, pro nobis et nomine nostro, ipsam summam pecuniarum, quam discretus vir, Hugo Feenn, in ultima sua voluntate ex sua liberalitate nobis legavit atque donavit. Damusque et concedimus per presentes eisdem Thome, Willelmo et Roberto, conjunctim, et eorum cuilibet per se, ut premittitur, divisim et in solidum, potestatem generalem et mandatum speciale nomine nostro liberandi, acquietandi Henricum Haidone et Willelmum Cenney, executores ultime voluntatis ejusdem Hugonis, et quoscunque alios legittimam administrationem bonorum dicti Hugonis habentes; ceteraque omnia alia et singula faciendi, exercendi, exequendi et expediendi, que in premissis et circa ea necessaria fuerint seu quomodolibet oportuna. 1489.

[1] *possessorem* MS.

Nosque, Cancellarius et regentes antedicti, promittimus nos ratum, gratum et firmum perpetuo esse habituros totum et quicquid dicti procuratores nostri, seu eorum aliquis, fecerint seu fecerit in premissis, seu in aliquo premissorum. In quorum omnium et singulorum fidem sigillum nostre Universitatis Oxoniensis commune apponi fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo nono, die mensis Januarii sextodecimo.*

385.

From the Bishop of Lincoln[1].

When the school of Canon law is built—on your land but at other people's expense—it will be ready for use immediately; if, in addition to the lecturer's chair, suitable benches are provided for the students and audience. You need be at no farther expense; the seats with desks in front, lately in the old library over the convocation house, will do very well. To make this use of them will furnish your building, and foster among her sons the already increasing pride in their mother the University and the interest they take in all that promotes her welfare.

1489. Posteaquam scole juris canonici in proprio Universitatis solo aliorum impensis, quod brevi speratur futurum, in parietibus et tectis perfecte fuerint, nihil deërit, quominus locus ipse vestris utilitatibus statim inserviat; si, preter cathedram, pro scolaribus et honestis auditoribus subsellia parata atque congrua inveniantur. Habetis de propriis unde id sine novis impensis fiat: illas quidem sediculas cum antepositis receptaculis librorum, quibus in veteri biblioteca Universitatis supra domum congregationis omnes jam diu usi fueramus. Quod si res ipsas ad alium usum non verteritis, decorabitis hanc domum vestre pensionis, dabitisque causam ut alumni vestre Universitatis, jam jam solito magis sue matris honoribus affecti, cuncta vobiscum sentiant, que istius corporis utilitates promoveant: credite id et valete. *Ex Holbornia vicesimo die Januarii.*

386.

Fol. 162 b.

To the Bishop of Lincoln[2].

We entirely approve of your suggestion and sincerely thank you for your fatherly interest, greater than has been exhibited by any of our benefactors. As from a distant watch-tower you behold every

[1] This title is in a late hand on the margin, Epi : Lync : Can :

[2] No title in MS.

thing we need, and help us with your advice. We shall do nothing contrary to your wishes with respect to the old seats.

NON potuerunt tue ad nos jam pridem amantissime littere non probatissime gratissimeque nobis omnibus videri, tum quod tantum patrem nostre reipublice rationem in se suscepisse pre se ferebant, tum quod prestantem reverendamque tuam dominationem ceteros quoscunque viros Universitatis Oxoniensis benefactores, non parva laude atque veneratione dignos, prestanti quodam et singulari amore vicisse, patriisque officiis precessisse declararunt. Quotiens enim nostra interesse, optimis tuis conjecturis, tanquam a specula quadam, a longe videris, non paucis in rebus, imo in multis, imo verius in omnibus, quas Universitati Oxoniensi frugi esse cognoveris, nos semper tuo prudenti consilio super agendis admonitos esse velis. Nihil apud nos statutum habebimus de ipsis sediculis atque librorum receptaculis, que in ipsa nostra biblioteca consenuerant, quod a tua sententia tuoque prudentissimo consilio recedere debeat. Et semper valeat vestra reverenda paternitas, &c. 1489.

Testimonial letter for Master Pedro ffernandi of Corduba.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit, honestissimos labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare: eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere et ceteros ad imitandum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus itaque nobis magnas et egregias virtutes honorabilis viri, magistri Petri ffernandi, de Corduba, ingentem preterea in medicinis doctrinam non mediocribus laboribus atque vigiliis comparatam; visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimo doctoris in medicinis gradu illum donare. Quo suscepto, eas denique res pro virili sua parte gessit, que ad sue professionis[1] officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que, cum ejusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolentiam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo nono, die mensis Februarii undevicesimo.* 1489.

[1] *possessionis* MS.

Testimonial letter for Master Michael de Germanis.

1489. UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit honestissimos labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare: eo namque et illos industrie sue minus penitere et ceteros ad imitandum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus itaque nobis magnas et egregias virtutes prenobilis viri, magistri Michaelis de Germanis, Januensis, ingentem preterea in sacra theologia doctrinam, non mediocribus laboribus atque vigiliis in diversis gymnasiis comparatam; visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse amplissimo professoris in sacra theologia gradu illum donare. Itaque anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo[1] nono, laudabiliter peractis ab eo examinibus, *puta* tribus disputationibus publicis in magnis scolis theologie, sermone quoque in latinis coram toto collegio Universitatis, argumentacionibus vesperiarum et ordinaria disputacione coram doctoribus cujuslibet facultatis, et tam regentibus quam non-
Fol. 163 a. regentibus, gradum doctoratus in sacra theologia, justitia suadente, quinto decimo Kalendas Marcii supradicti anni, solenniter congregatis in nostra ecclesia S. Marie omnibus tam graduatis quam non-graduatis, prout mos est, graciosissime contulimus; ac inter doctorum cetum hujus alme Universitatis annumeravimus et ascripsimus. Quo suscepto, eas denique res pro virili sua parte gessit, que ad sue professionis officium et nostre Universitatis gloriam spectarent. Que, cum ejusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolenciam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendacionem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo*[1] *nono, die mensis Februarii vicesimo quinto.*

387.

From the King.

1489. TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete yow wele: And where as oon Thomas of the seler, late syrvant unto the habbot off Abyngdone, was lately delyvered unto yow by our trusty clerke and chapellayn, maister rychard ffitzjames; It ys schewed unto us þt ye have comytted hym

[1] *octuagesimo* MS.

un to sure and sauff ward, and soo entend to kepe hym un to þe tyme ye schal know our pleasur in þt behalff; off þe wyche your true and sad demeanyng we thanke yow hertely, wyllyng and desyryng and also chargyng yow that incontynently, upon the recept off thys owre lettres, ye delyver the seyd Thomas suwerly and sauffly unto owre wolbeloved servant Robert chamber, berer hereoff. And yn as moche as the same Thomas had a casket, plate and oder stuff, at þe tyme he was yn þe ffreres Augustins, the prior wheroff and bachaler, steven courtys, becam surties, body for body, ffor þe sayd thomas and ffor þe sayd casket and stuff; we wolde and desyre yow that, callyng them un to yow, ye examyne them wysely and dyscretely by ffore owre sayde servant, and every parell[1], as welle off mony plate as off oder stuff, and receyvyng yt by endenture ye delyvere þe same to ower seyde servant also by endenture. And where as the seyde bachelar hath not oonly forfaited hys suretie, but also gevously[2] offendyd un to us in concellyng and pourloignyng þe sayde thomas, and þt he ys at large out off any estrayte prison, metely to punycione off suche offens, we wol and charge yow either to correcte hym by estrayte pryson, as we may have cause to thanke hym suffycyently punyshed, or ells that ye sende hym un to þe most reverend ffadyr in god, ower rygth trusty and ryght enterly wellbelovyde tharchebysshope off canterbery, ower chauncellar off england. What ye schal have done in þis examinacione forsayd, and off þe maner and circumstance off yower correccyone, off yower demeanyng þeryn, and theyre confessyons in þis case, and what wey ye wyl take ffor þe correxcione off þe sayde bachelar stephyne, we wol ye certyfie us by yower wretyng; as owere perffyt trust ys in yow, and as ye thynk to deserve therffore ower singular and harty thankys. Yeve under our synet at þe maner off assher, the xii day off marche.

388.

To the Archdeacon of ——[3]

Fol. 163 b.

May your beneficence be no less to the profit of your own soul than to our advantage and honour! Doctor Fitzjames has delivered to us one hundred and thirty-two volumes, and also two hundred pounds. The bearer of this letter is both learned and prudent, and his oral communication will render a longer letter unnecessary.

TANTA est magnitudo tuorum erga nos meritorum, dignissime Archidiacone, ut nos tibi perpetuo devinctos esse oporteat. Habemus igitur immortales gratias pro tuis in nos collatis beneficiis. Speramus 1489.

[1] *parcel?* [2] *grevously?* [3] This letter is, no doubt, addressed to R. Lichfield, Archdeacon of Middlesex.

utique tua gratissima in nos munera non minori tue anime saluti quam aut nobis commodo aut nostre Universitati honori fore. Recepimus a venerabili viro, domino doctore ffitzhjames, centum et triginta duo volumina, ducentas preterea libras. Nostre littere impresentiarum tanto ad te breviores quanto utimur tabellario doctissimo atque prudentissimo; cui sic nostram mentem exposuimus ad reddendas gratias ut te facile certiorem de omnibus que fecerimus in hac causa facturus sit [1]. . . .

389.

Domino Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi.

When we frequently and soberly reflect upon your extraordinary generosity to us, our privileges being now confirmed, we are most anxious to make it plain to you that we were not unworthy to ask so great a favour, nor are ungrateful now it is granted. We cannot suitably express our thanks for the thoughtful care with which you have always acted, in everything consulting our interests. Trusting then rather in your goodness than in our own deserts, we pray you to continue your protection in the future. By reposing absolute confidence in what Doctor ffitzjames will report, you will oblige us very much.

1489. Cum egregiam, imo verius singularem atque divinam liberalitatem, quam Oxoniensis respublica, susceptis jampridem suis privilegiis, a vestra reverendissima paternitate acceperit, non minus sana [2] quam frequenti recordatione nobiscum repetimus, dignissime Archipresul, nihil ad nos magis spectare existimamus, quam pro virili nostra parte contendere, ne nos ad ejusmodi beneficia aut indignas aut ingratas manus porrexisse abs tanta paternitate merito judicemur. Quotiens enim ad infinitas atque immortales gratiarum actiones, non satis dignas tamen ipsis vestris beneficiis, pro tantis in nos meritis confugimus, vix aut nobis ipsis aut ulli parti tantorum erga nos meritorum satisfecisse videmur; cum nihil unquam a vestra prestantissima dominatione pretermissum esse meminerimus, quod eidem nostre reipublice conducere posse vestra prestans dominacio putaverit. Nos igitur, jam magis in vestra benignitate quam in nostris meritis confisi, non veremur ad superiora in nos beneficia, eaque maxima, id rogare, ut vestra prestantissima dominacio eque posthac atque antea Oxoniensem rempublicam respiciat, diligat atque tueatur. Quod si domino doctori ffitzhjames, viro [3] nimirum vestre paternitati deditissimo atque observantissimo, in nostra causa dicenti ipsam fidem quam nobis omnibus, si coram diceremus, vestra paternitas dederit, rem non minus gratam

[1] The remainder of this letter is wanting. [2] *sani* MS. [3] *virum* ib.

quam toti cetui Oxoniensi desideratam profecto faciet. Et semper valeat reverendissima paternitas vestra, Archipresul dignissime. *Oxonie a nostre congregationis domo, Idibus Marciis.*

390.

Domino Regi.

On receipt of your letter we proceeded without delay to examine Master Thomas Thwates, Prior of the house of the Augustine friars here; and afterwards John Cope, subprior, and Stephen Curtes were likewise examined on oath; all in the presence of Robert Chamber, your servant; to whom we have handed a written copy of their confessions, together with an inventory of the goods that came to their hands. We have moreover committed Thomas the cellarer to the custody of the said R. Chamber; and again returned the above-mentioned friars to prison, until your majesty's pleasure herein shall be known. They are very penitent, and it will be an act of mercy acceptable to God, if, after a few days' further durance, you would suffer them to be discharged.

Cum vestre serenissime majestatis peregregias litteras ad nos jam **1489.**
pridem perlatas legissemus, illustrissime princeps, acceleravimus procedendo primum ad examinationem Thome Thwates, fratris et Prioris domus S. Augustini in vestra Universitate Oxoniensi. Deinde vero Johannem Cope, subpriorem, et Stephanum Curtes, in theologia bacallarium, tactis per eos sacrosanctis Dei evangeliis, ut rem veram dicerent juramento oneravimus. Nihil fecimus in illa examinatione, quod non audiverat atque viderat vestre celsitudinis diligens servitor Robertus Chamber. Eum quidem ad nos vocari fecimus, cum ut audiret quicquid illi fratres confitendo dicerent, tum ut ad vestram preclarissimam celsitudinem singula dicta referret. Quod ut maturius per eum fieri posset, tradidimus illi quoddam scriptum cui inscribuntur eorumdem fratrum confessiones, prout ab eisdem nobis audientibus proponebantur, una cum indenturis de re omni recepta, in quantum perscrutari potuimus. Ipsum quidem Thomam de Sellario, quondam **Fol. 164 a.**
ministrum Abbatis de Abindone, commisimus ad manus dicti Roberti Chamber, sicuti in ipsis vestris peregregiis litteris jussum fuerat. Posteaquam hec omnia per nos fierent, remisimus ipsos fratres in vestrum castrum in villa Oxoniensi, iterum sub custodia tenendos, quoadusque quid de illis fieri debeat vestra clementissima majestas judicarit. Quod si post aliquot dies penis affectos—plurimum enim

penitentes sunt quod tante[1] majestati displicuerunt—ad sua redire vestra dignissima majestas permiserit, rem procul dubio Deo acceptam faciet. Et semper vale, &c.

391.

Domino doctori Silke.

Your noble disposition to bestow your money on this University is, of course, a very great source of pleasure to us; and, indeed, none deserve to be honoured above other men so much as those who, having wealth, so use it as to do good to others, while they gain everlasting gratitude for themselves. If you get the walls of S. Mary's rebuilt—as we pray you to do—we hope you will never see reason to regret what you have done.

1489. Non possumus profecto quin plurimum letemur, quod magis magisque indies illa tibi animi magnitudo creverit, ut nihil malis quam toti reipublice Oxoniensi prodesse, atque rem maximam gratissimamque facere. Posteaquam magister Thomas Ruere a sua terra natali sese jampridem in Universitatem Oxoniensem contulisset, nos certiores reddidit quam esset tui et desiderium et studium benefaciendi nostre reipublice Oxoniensi. Illi utique viri semper preter ceteros clarissimi censendi sunt, qui ubi divitiis abundarint illis ad benignitatem sic utuntur, ut utentium nomina immortalitati commendent. Fac ut cepisti, humanissime atque amantissime doctor. Auxilium ferto ad construendam ecclesiam Beate Marie in Universitate Oxoniensi. Si tua procuratione—id ut facias, nos omnes te etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus—ad levandos ejus muros opem feras, speramus fore ut nusquam te collati in nos beneficii peniteat, &c.

392.

Domino doctori ffizthjames.

We are very sensible how great is the obligation under which we lie to you for all your care and affection: and when we say that there is no one more deserving of our gratitude, and express our happiness to see you become the just object of so much respect and love, we have no thought of thereby spurring you on to greater benevolence, but intend only to discharge the duty of acknowledging our debt.

1489. Nequaquam sumus nescii, honoratissime amantissimeque doctor, quantum respublica Oxoniensis tibi debeat; cujus negotia omnia

[1] *tanti* MS.

tanta cura, tanta diligentia, tanto denique amore abs te fiunt, ut cui plus debeat et quem magis diligat habeat neminem. Gaudemus profecto te in illum virum evasisse, quem omnes, et presertim nostre reipublice amici, et plurimum diligere maximique semper facere, atque merito, debeant. Non scripsimus has litteras ut aut stimulus aut calcar essent, quo majori diligentia in nostris rebus uterere—velocissimum quidem ad optime gratissimeque faciendum tete tua natura efficit;—imo ne nos officium nostrum pretermisisse existimare posses. Et vale in secula et nos ut soles diligito.

393.

By the King.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd, we grete yow wele, and have receyved yower wrytyng, Date at oxonford the xvii day off þe calendys off April; by þe wyche, and by þe report off ower welbelovyd servant robert chamber, we under stand þe ffectuell devoire and true diligens þt ye have put yow yn ffor thaccomplisshement off ower comaundment late yeven un to yow, aswel in sadly and by gode cyrcumstances examynyng certain persones, and in commyttyng to warde diverse off them unto ower castel there, þt ye fund culpabylle and deffectyff, as yn takyng ayain and sendyng un to us by ower sayd servant Thomas off þe Selar, late servant unto the habbot off abyngdon; by þe wyche yor true acquitaill demaynyng we evydently perceyve þe perffyt trouthe and assured mynde þt ye, as ower lovyng subiectis, ow and bere un to us, and un to such thyngys as concerne ower welle: ffor the wyche we have cause to thanke yow, and so we ffull hartely do. And where as ye know welle þt suche personys as ye have commyttyd to warde been so entreated ffor great and haynous offenses by them ex presley[1], a just scharpe ponysshement off ower lawes, to the jeopardye off their lives: and though it were necessarye and convenient that they schul be punysshed, in feere and example off oder presumyng hereaffter, yet we, at yower instanse and umbely petycyon[2], have wtdrawyn þe same, and ffor yower sakys be content þt þi be put at þr lyberte; so þt þi make promes unto yow to be off gode beryng un to us hereaffter. Yeven under or synet at ower maner off sheene þe xix day off Marche. 1489.

[1] The writing here is perfectly distinct, and without blot or lacuna in the MS., though some words are, of course, wanting. [2] *petycyon* repeated, MS.

394.

Collectori domini Pape.

Fol. 164 b. *Though your great attainments surpass those of the most learned men of the day, we venture to write you this short letter—ill expressed we know—relying upon your goodness and favourable disposition towards us. We well know how great influence you have with his Holiness, from whom we have resolved to ask two favours, if you will support the request. The first, that our Chancellor, or his Commissary, with assent of the doctors in theology, may be empowered to grant licence to preach to persons approved by them and willing to undertake the duty: the second, that they may have power to confer minor orders in Oxford. By your aid we think both can easily be obtained. Our messenger is a prudent and learned man, and we can trust him to say by word of mouth anything more that may be desired.*

1489. Etsi in ipsum virum evasisti cui littere temere committende non sunt, cum propter ingenii prestantiam, tum propter ingentem doctrinam, qua ceteris in hac nostra etate doctissimis viris facile prestas atque prefulges; tamen non veremur tibi his nostris brevissimis litteris —inculte sunt—salutem dicere: quod mehercule non faceremus, si vel in tua humanitate vel in amicitia ullam diffidentiam poneremus. Non potest nos latere, vir prudentissime atque doctissime, quantum valeas et gratia et auctoritate apud summum maximumque pontificem; a quo, si tu nobis auxilio eris, binas res petere decrevimus. Una est, ut liceat Cancellario Universitatis Oxoniensis atque ejus commissario, cum assensu doctorum in sacra theologia in Universitate studentium, posse facere potestatem sive libertatem predicandi quibuscunque viris doctis et per eos probatis, onus et labores predicandi in se suscipere volentibus, ut ubilibet postea libere predicare valeant. Altera vero res hec est: gratiam impetrare cupimus ut minores ordines in Universitate Oxoniensi celebrandi potestatem habeat tam Cancellarius quam commissarius ejusdem Universitatis. Non dubitamus quin hec facile impetrata erunt, si te illum in nos posthac prestiteris, quem te semper antea fuisse experti sumus, virum certe longe omnium gratissimum atque humanissimum. Is est nostri tabellarius cui littere longissime committende non sunt, cum vir et prudentissimus et doctissimus merito censendus sit. Et semper vale, &c.

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincoln- 1489.
iensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Willelmum Hewster et Robertum Bortun, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confeccionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney, viginti sex solidos et octo denarios sterlingorum: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis et octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, et eos inde acquietamus per presentes nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, sexto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum quinto.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincoln- 1489.
iensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Willelmum Hewster et Robertum Bortun, procuratores ejusdem, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum: De quibus quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos esse solutos, et eos inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, sexto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum quinto.*

395.

Domino Johanni Thorne, Abbati de Reeding, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo.

It is true that we have both heard of your sympathy with our work here, from the report of most worthy persons, and have also experienced your frequent liberality; yet we have not until now determined to ask you to secure to us the same privileges, as the Abbot of Abingdon formerly procured for us. You would thereby be doing us a very great favour; and—which makes a request more agreeable to every prudent man—you can do so without any prejudice to your own interests.

ETSI tua semper erga nos nostramque rempublicam humanitas, 1490.
aut, si expressius atque verius loqui volumus, egregia voluntas, vel potius frequens liberalitas, non minus dignissimorum testimonio quam re ipsa nobis satis comperta exploratque est, id tamen abs tua reverentia tandem petere nostra sententia est, quod, sine tuo damno, in non parvum imo certe maximum nostre Universitatis commodum,

tuam reverentiam conferre posse arbitramur. Quo enim quis prudentior atque melior est, eo magis illi grata erit ab amicis facta petitio, si ut vacua non sit sine suo malo elaborare possit. Te igitur etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus, prudentissime atque amantissime domine, ut ipsa nostra privilegia, per reverendum patrem Abbatem de Abindone olim acquisita, servata et salva apud te esse velis. Quod si tua prudentia perfeceris ut[1] a nobis tandem sine injuria cuiquam illata occupentur atque possideantur, id tete Oxoniensi reipublice effecisse scias, quo majus vix quisquam mortalium prestare possit. Nostrum tabellarium unice diligimus: cui volumus hac in causa fidem dederis. Et semper vale, religiosissime domine.

396.

Fol. 165 a. **To the Prior of Llanthony Abbey.**

We have been debating what we could do that would be the greatest blessing to the University, and prove that we—for it chiefly concerns ourselves—are not ungrateful or useless sons of our mother; and we have come to the conclusion that nothing is more needed than a thorough repair, both of walls and roof, of our church of S. Mary the Virgin. When you look at it from outside, you are astonished that it resists the wind, and, if you go inside, it is at the peril of your life. Now all our treasure is gone, spent upon very necessary matters, and we have resolved to ask the aid of our most distinguished and worthy sons, and especially of yourself; so that if you can give us stone or other necessary material, your generosity shall be remembered, and others stimulated to do likewise.

1490. Prenobili et religioso viro, &c., Henrico, Priori Llanthoniensi[2] Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, &c. Cum de nostre reipublice statu et salute in nostro senatu jampridem tractaremus, cogitantes quibus eam beneficiis—ad nos potissimum spectat—his nostris diebus afficeremus, ne aut ingrati aut inutiles filii apud viros exteros judicaremur; in ipsam sententiam incidimus, nihil a nobis tam preclarum atque Oxoniensi reipublice utile hac nostra etate fieri posse, quam ecclesiam Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, que foris bene eam advertentibus admirationem inducit, quod tantis ventorum flatibus hucusque obsteterit, intus vero existentibus periculum sua vetustate minetur, tam in muris quam in tecto pro majori parte reëdificare atque novam facere. Turpissimum atque nobis valde

[1] *ut* omitted in MS. [2] *Langthoniensi* ib.

dedecorosum fore existimamus, ut tantum posthac timorem nimia sua vetustate ingredientibus relinquat. Cum vero nostre divitie, que aliis ejusdem nostre Universitatis honestissimis usibus fere absumpte sunt, ad hec edificia, ut per nos plene perficiantur, minus sufficiant, ad ceteros nostre Universitatis alumnos, qui nobis locupletiores sunt, et precipue ad te, qui nonnullos alios prestantissimos viros et prudentia et divitiarum affluentia superasti, fugiendum esse duximus. Quod si lapides aut ejusmodi necessaria, sine quibus tanta edificia perfecta esse nequeunt, petentibus nobis concesseris, id facies et quod tui memoriam marcescere non patietur in eternum, et quod ceteros ad prestanda beneficia alacriores reddet. Et semper valeat tua reverentia.

397.

Littere Collectoris domini Pape.

I have postponed my reply to your letter, received some time ago, because I thought it best to send it by your messenger—a prudent man, as you say, and a careful—when I should know of his return. I will do all in my power to further your wishes when I go back to Rome, and I hope I may be as successful as I am willing; for I do not forget that I am a member, though unworthy, of your University. I commend to you the bearer, of whose singular merits I need not say more to you.

VENERANDI doctores et magistri honorandi, post debitam commendationem &c.; Accepi jamdudum litteras vestras, quibus antea non respondi quod per eundem tabellarium respondendum putaverim, per quem vestre mihi reddite sunt, cum scirem illum ad vos reversurum; virum, ut dicitis, prudentem non solum sed etiam diligentem, ex quo, juxta vestrarum litterarum tenorem, intellexi ea que cupitis per me a summo pontifici vestro nomine impetrari. Faciam ego libentissime, cum Rome fuero, quod in me erit. Nec laboris quicquam aut studii pretermittam, quo putem me posse votis vestris satisfacere. Utinam tam facile possem quam vellem. Non deërit opera mea, qui me membrum, quamvis fortasse minus dignum, alme illius Universitatis esse cognosco. Latorem presentium vobis commendo; de cujus doctrina, virtute ac erga vos observantia singulari plura scriberem, nisi gravissimo judicio vestro paulo ante a vobis illum probatum esse scirem. Optime valete, et si quid in me esse cognoveritis, quod vel Universitati illi alme vel vobis ad honorem aut commodum fore putabitis, me, quantum valeo, utamini. *Londoniis,* 1490.

die vicesimo septimo Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo. Vobis deditissimus Johannes de Giglis, sancti nostri Pape collector.

398.

Johanni, Abbati Reding.

Your efforts in our behalf merit our everlasting gratitude, for by them our privileges have so far been rescued, as it were, from the flames. We beg you to persevere, for you are the only person to whom we can wholly entrust the defence of our cause. We expect from you all that can be expected from a man of the greatest ability and virtue. Any further details you may wish for our messenger will supply. We have instructed him to make his journey to you with all speed, and he is a man in whom you may confide.

1490. Id efficiunt tua in nos nostramque rempublicam merita, religiosissime pater, ut nos cum nostra republica tibi perpetuo devinctos esse oporteat. Facito ut cepisti in causa ipsorum privilegiorum, que tua cura, tua, inquam, summa prudentia ab ignibus hucusque servata sunt. Si quidem eadem in causa nostri gratiam procurare velis, facies ut vix ex nostratibus reperiantur, qui tanta, vel saltem majora, beneficia diutissime in Oxoniensem rempublicam contulerunt. Solus es, cui hanc totam causam defendendam committimus. Ad quem tantam causam, et precipue hanc, prudentissime gerendam conferamus, preter te habemus neminem. Facito igitur ut que feceris perpetuis monumentis digna inveniantur. Omnia enim illa —Enee Silvii sententia est—a te expectantur, que a viro summo ingenio summaque virtute predito expectari solent. Cetera que voles accipies ex nostro tabellario, cui nos hac in re patefecimus atque ut ad te accelerato itinere proficisceretur rogatum habuimus; is est nostro judicio cui fides merito habenda est. Et semper vale, &c.

Fol. 165 b. **Testimonial letter for Master Peter Marshall.**

1490. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque unanimis magistrorum in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Ea nobis studiosorum hominum cura semper fuit honestissimos labores, quibus ad capessendas virtutes et disciplinas in omni vita contenderint, honestissimis quoque premiis aliquando compensare: eo namque pacto et illos industrie sue minus penitere, et ceteros ad imitandum alacriores effici solere comperimus. Considerantibus itaque nobis

quam maximos labores plurimum dilecti confratris nostri, domini Petri Marshall, qui, pro tempore quo in nostra Universitate studio deditus erat, parem cum ceteris secum studentibus doctrinam suis vigiliis comparatam reportabat, visum est officii nostri plurimum interesse illum gradu bacallariatus in artibus donare. Quo suscepto, eas res in nostra Universitate per duorum annorum curriculum gessit, que ad gradum ab eo susceptum spectabant. Que, cum ejusmodi sint ut suapte natura benevolentiam facile concilient, nostris tamen testimoniis nihilominus comprobanda videntur. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram benemeriti hominis commendationem plus apud ceteros ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum Oxonie, &c. undecimo die Augusti*[1].

399.

To Master Richard Salter.

The difficulty we find in providing for the expense of rebuilding S. Mary's Church, which had for a long time threatened to fall, is so great that we are compelled to write many letters to ask assistance of our friends. We hope you will give us a contribution, and, whatever it may be, our needs will ensure its thankful acceptance; and at the same time we beg that you will stimulate and whet the charity of the bishop of Lichfield, for we know your recommendations always receive attention from him.

INTEGERRIMO juris interpreti, magistro Ricardo Salter, Cancellarius 1490.
Universitatis, &c. Tanta jam nos cura afficimur, humanissime doctor, pro construenda ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, que diu prope casura erat, ut ad ejusdem Universitatis amicos scribere hoc ipsum edificium nos frequenter compellat. Id est quod ex te petimus, vir humanissime, ut nobis poscentibus aliquid ad ipsam ecclesiam construendam elargiri velis. Quicquid equidem nobis, gravissimos labores gravissimasque expensas pro construenda ecclesia subeuntibus, abs te collatum erit, id nobis gratissimum profecto erit, atque ad perpetuam[2] tui in nos amoris tuique nominis memoriam. Rogamus te etiam atque etiam, ut dominum episcopum Lichfeldensem, cui nullos unquam frustra te commendatos fecisse cognovimus, ad conferenda in nos beneficia acuas atque agites. Nihil hac re nobis gratius atque optatius poteris facere. Et optime valeat tua reverentia, humanissime doctor.

[1] These three words are added on the margin by a contemporary hand.
[2] *perpetuum* ib.

400.

To Master George Stranguisshe.

No doubt you are aware of the disgraceful state of S. Mary's Church, which is so old and ruinous that our most competent advisers consider complete rebuilding necessary. That work accordingly we have undertaken. We would therefore ask you not only to contribute to the fund we are raising for that object, but also to urge the Bishop of Lichfield to help us also. It will greatly please us to find that this our letter has not been useless, and whatever the amount of the assistance it may bring, it will not be more than we expect from your advocacy of our cause, and we shall thankfully accept it.

1490. Honorabili viro, magistro Georgio Stranguisshe, &c. Non putamus preteriisse te, litteratissime doctor, quanta vetustate ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi non sine nostro dedecore hucusque[1]. Ea est equidem ipsius ecclesie vetustas, que multos ex nostratibus, illos maxime quibus respublica Oxoniensis majori preter ceteros cure est, in ipsam sententiam adduxerit, ut a fundamento hec ipsa ecclesia denuo conficiatur. Id nos opus perficiendum in nostros humeros jam pridem suscepimus. Rogatum te igitur habemus, vir humanissime, ut, preter id quod ad ipsius ecclesie constructionem ex te dabitur, tuum studium non desit quin dominum episcopum Lichfeldensem—scimus quantum ponderis tua gracia apud eum sit habitura—in hac causa commoveas faciliter; ut nobis hanc ecclesiam construentibus sua liberalitate in aliquo succurrat. Itaque facies nobis rem pergratam, si tua opera curaveris nos has ad te litteras frustra non dedisse. Quidquid in nos beneficii dederit, id nobis gratum certe atque, te in causa loquente, expectatum erit. Et diu et optime vale, humanissime doctor.

401.

To the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.

To be sure of your warm feeling toward this University is always a very great comfort to us, and more especially is it so at a time when, as is now the case, we stand in need of the succour of those who have our welfare at heart. Our good friend master Stephen Browne, in an address delivered here, very clearly gave us to understand that you are favourably inclined to us, and a donation worthy

[1] Supply *afficitur*.

of your lordship to help us in our task of rebuilding S. Mary's will show all men how much you love us. Our means are all but exhausted by paying the workmen, and we are forced to appeal to those in high places both of church and state; so that anything you give will be well spent.

REVERENDO in Cristo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, divina providentia Conventriensi et Lichefeldensi episcopo, &c. Etsi nobis omnibus non nisi gratum vehementer esse potuit, quod Oxoniensis respublica semper tibi antehac cara extitit, dignissime presul, maximis tamen jam letitiis afficimur te ex ipsis nostre Universitatis alumnis esse, qui eidem Universitati plurimum prodesse studeant; presertim cum eo perducta sit, ut amicissimorum virorum auxiliis modo indigere videatur. Venit ad nos, circiter quartum Kalendas Julias, magister Stephanus Browne, nostre Universitatis amantissimus. Is de tua reverenda paternitate audientibus nobis proposuit, ex quibus tuum in nos amorem facile perspicere potuimus. Si quid nobis ecclesiam Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi de novo construendam suscipientibus—aliquid tua dominatione dignum—concesseris, facias ut tuum erga nos amorem omnes homines apertissime atque perpetuo intelligant. Cogimur, reverendissime pater, suscepto hoc onere, nostris insuper facultatibus labore artificum fere absumptis, reverendissimos dominos dignissimosque viros ut nobis succurrant rogatos habere; et nihil ad hoc edificium offerre poteris, presul dignissime, quod te frustra in nos contulisse posthac merito dicere debeas. Et semper valeat tua reverenda paternitas, domine prestantissime atque amantissime. **1490.** **Fol. 166 a.**

402[1].

The Schools of Theology and Canon law having been completed at our expense, and Doctor Lichfield having conceived a wish to leave some monument of his name among us, it was suggested to him that nothing could be better adapted for the purpose than the rebuilding of S. Mary's Church, our ancient place of Convocation, now in a dangerous state of dilapidation. To this end he gave a large sum, but is not able to finish the work. We therefore invite you, with others of distinguished position, to help us, and thereby stimulate also the benevolence of others.

EXTRUCTIS et prope consummatis sacre theologie et canonum scolis, quod onus ad nostram rempublicam attinebat, cogitabat apud se **1490.**

[1] No title.

discretus vir magister Lychfyld, legum doctor, quid sua memoria dignum in nostra Universitate relinquere posset. Consultum est ei a viris prudentibus et a doctissimis persuasum, nihil eum illustrius facere posse quam ut ecclesiam Beate Virginis, ubi celebriores fiunt actus et frequentissimus senatus occurrit, jam periculum ingredientibus minitantem, item faciat[1] reparari. Qui, ut vir prudens, doctorum nitens sententiis, magnam nostre Universitati summam ad ea inchoanda edificia concessit. Cui tamen operi jam incepto finem facere non potest. Quare vestram humanitatem obsecramus, vir egregie, ut inter ceteros claros viros vestra non desint auxilia: augescet enim sic vestri nominis fama eritque ad similia perpetranda ceteris exemplar, illustrissime[2] . . . .

403.

Priori de Merton[3].

It is always more agreeable to us to grant than to ask a favour, but our circumstances at present are such as compel us to do otherwise. Our Church of S. Mary, long in a dangerous condition, must be pulled down, and, by the help of God, rebuilt. This is a work the completion whereof will confer great honour both on those who ask and those who give their aid. Let then your contribution be such as they usually give who are of noble character and station. But, give what you may, it shall be welcome because your offering.

1490. Etsi longe magis optatum nobis semper fuit in alios beneficia conferre quam eadem a quoque mortalium publice expetere, tamen ejusmodi sunt conditiones nostrorum temporum, que nos prius ab aliis beneficia querere quam in alios conferre impellunt. Ecclesia namque Beate Marie intra Universitatem Oxoniensem, que vix—tam est antiqua—magno cum periculo hucusque steterit, per nos funditus diruenda est; paullo post, Deo dante, iterum construenda. Que si integra atque perfecta nostris laboribus tandem reddatur, et illis a quibus beneficia conferuntur, et his per quos ipsa beneficia expetuntur, magnos honores allatura est. Te igitur rogatum etiam atque etiam habemus, honorande Prior, quatenus tua in nos munuscula talia esse possint, qualia a prestantissimis viris et dominis condonari solent. Qualiacunque erunt, nobis certe, quia ex te porriguntur, gratissima atque acceptissima erunt. Et diu valeat tua paternitas.

[1] *facias* MS. [2] The remainder is lacking; this is probably a form of circular letter. [3] This title is written on the margin.

404[1].

The condition of S. Mary's Church causes us no small anxiety. The roof is in so bad a state that the rain pours in and the open air is hardly less sheltered. We cannot bear to see the building thus ruinous, and have undertaken to rebuild it. We will do our best, and hope you will give some help. **Fol. 166 b.**

Non parva sollicitudine et cura afficimur, honorande rector, quod ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate Oxonie, per cujus tectum cadente pluvia humores aquei largissime infunduntur—adeo certe ut non procul intersit an quisquam vel in ipsa ecclesia vel sub divo et apertissimo celo steterit—ad nostras manus jam construenda devolvitur. Non possumus non egre ferre quod tam lacera cunctis appareat atque confracta. Faciemus igitur quod in nobis est. Quod si nobis tantas curas atque expensas subeuntibus aliquas opes conferre curabis, rem toti reipublice Oxoniensi pregratam profecto facies. Et diu vale, dignissime rector. **1490.**

405[1].

We have never doubted your regard for us, and now an occasion occurs, in which you can show its sincerity. We must rebuild S. Mary's Church, decayed by age; and if you will render us some aid in this work, all men will see that your affection for the University is as great as we have always believed it to be.

Etsi nullo unquam tempore dubitamus, vir humanissime, quin nostre reipublice semper esses amantissimus, tamen ea res nobis ante oculos jam posita est, in qua poteris ipsum tuum in nos nostramque rempublicam amorem facillime atque apertissime ostendere. Quod si quicquam ad edificium ecclesie Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate, que considerata ejus antiquitate per nos nostrosque amicos reëdificanda est, elargiri velis, id efficies ut omnes intelligant nos a te tantum amari quantum ipsi semper existimamus. Hoc nobis gratius facere nihil poteris, idque ut facias te vehementer rogamus. Et semper optime vale, vir humanissime. **1490.**

406.

Doctori Boket[2].

Perhaps you have heard of the trouble caused us by the state of S. Mary's Church; the roof of which is broken and in holes. As our

[1] No title. [2] The titles in this part of the MS. are generally on the margin.

own means do not suffice, we find it necessary to write to our most influential friends for help; and if you contribute, as we hope you will, you will be doing us a very great service.

1490. AUDISTI fortasse, egregie doctor, quanta jam cura afficimur, quatenus ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate, que tectum undique lacerum atque confractum habet, per nos his nostris temporibus conficiatur. Ad quod quum nostras opes haud suffecturas esse videamus, ad alios dignissimos viros pro habendo auxilio nostras litteras conscribere impellimur. Si igitur—quod confidimus fore—aliquid in nos beneficii conferre velis, summo nos a te beneficio affectos arbitrabimur. Diu et optime vale, nostri semper memor.

407.

Domino Johanni Bygnell, militi.

We should be sorry, gallant sir, that you should think it importunate in us to write to you; for our difficulties oblige us against our inclination to do so. Our Church of S. Mary has now reached such a ruinous condition that few would willingly venture into it, at least in stormy weather; and all right-thinking people would blame us, if we were not concerned to repair it. The wages of the workmen have taken all our money; if then you can help, your donation will be most acceptable to us all.

1490. NOLUMUS tibi persuadeas, strenuissime miles, nos has nostras litteras importune scripsisse, presertim cum ea jam cura nobis relicta sit, que nos ad ejusmodi litteras scribendas non solum inducat sed etiam trahat atque rapiat frequentissime. Suscepimus in nos jampridem constructionem ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi; que ad tantas hac nostra etate fracturas pervenit, ut pauci sint qui eam sua sponte ingredi, procellarum saltem temporibus, cupiant atque presumant. Si enim nulla nos cura tangeret pro ecclesia sic confracta iterum conficienda, id nobis a quoque viro prudenti vicio dari posset. Quidquid igitur nobis, quibus omnem fere pecuniam nostram ad artificum loculos hoc edificium subtraxit, de tua liberalitate fueris elargitus, id erit et nobis omnibus et nostre Oxoniensi reipublice gratissimum. Idque ut facias te obtestamur atque obsecramus. Et semper vale, prudentissime atque strenuissime miles.

408[1].

Having undertaken the rebuilding of S. Mary's Church, we have made up our minds to apply to you among our other friends to help us. The building is in so tottering a state that people fear to stand near it in windy weather; we invite you then to give us such a sum as you may think suitable for such a work, and so lay us under a great obligation.

Post susceptam in nos curam construendi ecclesiam Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, cujus vetustissimum tectum usque adeo debilitatum est ut ventorum maxime tempestate prope stantes timore afficiat, tam ad te quam ad alios nostros amicos scribendum esse instituimus. Neque aliud quicquam ex te petimus, quam ut huic edificio id rei abs te tribuatur quod eidem conducere posse arbitrabere. Si ita feceris, id ad nos te dedisse putato quod nobis gratissimum fuit. Et diu vale, vir humanissime. **1490.**

409[2].

After much anxiety and care involved in the repair of S. Mary's Church, when we came to rebuild the walls, decayed by lapse of time, we found the task quite beyond our powers; and therefore resolved to ask the assistance of those able to give it. As we have reason to reckon you among our friends, we hope you will help us, and thereby merit our abiding thankfulness. **Fol. 167 a.**

Post multos labores, nonnullas insuper anxietates animique curas, quas his diebus perpessi sumus pro conficienda ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, ad cujus muros levandos nimia jam vetustate correptos cum nos inniteremur, tandem compertum habuimus esse longe supra nostras vires ut solum per nos tantum edificium denuo conficeretur. Aliorum igitur dignissimorum virorum auxilia expetenda esse censuimus. Quod si tu, quem nostri semper amatorem fuisse speramus, aliquid eidem ecclesie concesseris, id efficies in Oxoniensem rempublicam ut te semper posthac merito diligat. Et semper valeat tua reverentia. **1490.**

410.

Doctori Kalbeke.

Your liberality to our University has been sufficiently manifested by your recent generosity, and we heartily thank you for the same, and yet we hope that your goodness of heart and sympathy with misfortune will

[1] & [2] No title.

excuse our writing to you. You know very well how old S. Mary's Church is, and indeed either it must be rebuilt at once or it will tumble down. Of the two alternatives the latter seems quite inadmissible, and we must adopt the former. Whatever you give us we shall gratefully accept.

1490. Etsi tua in nos nostramque rempublicam liberalitas satis perspecta atque cognita semper fuit, ex his saltem rebus, que in nos abs te hos prope dies collate sunt—quare nos tibi semper immortales gratias habebimus—speramus tamen ea te esse humanitate eaque animi mansuetudine, ut te saltem in causa Oxoniensis reipublice nostris litteris rogatum habere libere possimus. Satis supraque satis nosti, vir doctissime, quanta est antiquitas ecclesie Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie. Tam est certe inveterata, ut vel in terram corruat vel per nos in brevi conficiatur necesse erit. Quorum primum quum minus licere videatur, ad alterum nos divertere oportet. Quidquid enim beneficii, quo ipsa ecclesia celerrime renovetur, abs te collatum erit, id erit nobis vehementer gratum profecto. Et diu vale, litteratissime doctor.

411.

Magistro Thome Haywode, Decano ecclesie Lichfildensis, et domino episcopo Landavensi.

As you have ever been most solicitous to maintain the University in dignity and efficiency, you will not be displeased if we write to you something of its condition at present. The task of rebuilding the ancient Church of S. Mary the Virgin has devolved upon us; if then you will show your benevolence by assisting us in this work, we shall be very thankful.

1490. Cum id maximopere semper antehac curaveris ut respublica Oxoniensis integra semper atque salva esset, existimavimus non injucundum tibi fore si tuam prestantiam quo in statu ipsa respublica esset per nostras litteras certiorem faceremus. Quod si nos, quibus ipsa respublica maxime jam cure est, ad ejusdem reipublice vel augende vel conservande utilitatem, aliquo beneficio donare velis, nos tibi perpetuo devinctos esse facies; amplissimam proinde laudem et amorem recepturus. Ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate, que jam vetustissima est, ad nostras manus jam construenda relinquitur. Si igitur tuam in nos liberalitatem in aliquo modo ostenderis, rem nobis gratissimam feceris. Qualecunque tuum in nos beneficium erit gratissimum profecto erit. Et diu vale, &c.

412[1].

As one of our members, naturally therefore interested in the matter, and as one also whose circumstances render it easy, we beg you to contribute, according to your ability, to our funds for repairing S. Mary's Church. We have paid away nearly all our money to the workmen, desiring to get the work done quickly, and any donation will be particularly acceptable.

Ex sermonibus multorum fortassis audisti, dilecte confrater, ecclesiam Beate Marie Oxonie per nos in brevi esse construendam. Exposuimus fere omnem pecuniam nostram ad manus artificum[2] assidue indies laborantium, quo ipsa ecclesia celeriter a fundamento edificetur. Cum igitur unus ex nostris confratribus sis, atque is ad quem hec res videtur spectare, is preterea qui nobis facile benefacere possis, rogamus quatenus juxta tuas vires auxilium nobis ferre velis atque cupias. Quicquid pecuniarum nobis hanc curam subeuntibus concesseris id erit nobis majorem in modum gratum. Quod ut facias magnopere cupimus atque rogamus. Vale et nostri memor esto. **1490.**

413[1].

The Church of S. Mary has become so dilapidated that it has long been unsafe to enter it, we have therefore unanimously resolved to pull down the building, and construct an entirely new one; for which purpose a large sum is needed, and our funds are quite exhausted. Any assistance you can give will be gratefully received.

Posteaquam nobiscum diu atque frequenter animadvertissemus in quam vetustatem ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis in nostra Universitate nostris temporibus inciderit, communi omnium nostrum[3] sententia tandem constitutum est ut, ad ingredientium et egredientium periculum penitus amovendum, ipsa ecclesia funditus everteretur; ut, quamprimum nobis ex nostrorum amicorum liberalitate tantus pecuniarum acervus accresceret, etiam conficeretur. Magnam pecuniarum summam, tam ex nostro erario quam ex aliorum dignissimorum **Fol. 167 b.** virorum archis et bursis contractam, ad artificum manus exposuimus. Speramus tamen fore tandem ut, partim abs te partim ex aliis amantissimis viris recepta pecunia, ipsa ecclesia constructa atque curata videatur. Si igitur nobis auxilium jam ferre velis, non modo de conservanda sed etiam de augenda republica Oxoniensi te virum studio- **1490.**

[1] No title. [2] *artificium* MS. [3] *nostrorum*, corrected in MS.

[illegible] semper [illegible]. Nihil ex te in rempublicam Glastoniensem conferetur, quod tibi non gratissimum erit. Dii prosperi te [illegible] reipublice [illegible].

414.[1]

The condition of S. Mary's Church has long been a source of great anxiety, and we have come to the conclusion that we must rebuild it, relying upon the help of friends more than upon our own resources. Now seeing in life places you in a position to lend your aid to the University in this hard work, and we earnestly hope that you will do so; assuring you that whatever you may yourself give, or induce others to give, for that purpose, will be received with thankfulness and never forgotten.

1490. Ut frequens cogitatio nostra nunc diu occupasset, quomodo ecclesiam Beate Marie in nostra Universitate, que quidem ecclesia prope casura est, his nostris temporibus construeremus; ad illam eandem sententiam perventum est ut a fundamento renovaretur. Neque id certe fecissemus, nisi majorem fiduciam in nostrorum amicorum liberalitate quam in nostris opibus poneremus. Quum igitur in illum virum ceciderit, qui Cicestrensi reipublice prodesse facile possis, apprime rogamus ut eidem in hac ejus necessitate auxilium ferre cures. Quod si aliquid abs te dabitur, quod incepto edificio conducere possit, id efficies ut nam apud nos memoriam nulla unquam oblivio deletura sit. Preterea te petimus atque rogamus majorem in modum, ut pro tuo in nos amore elabores ut nostri nostis amici jam suveniant. Id si nostri gratia in te susceperis, rem nostis non minus desideratam atque gratam vehementer facies. Dii vale nostri memor.

415.

Abbati Glastoniensi.

Though your benefactions, especially in the case of the School of Canon Law, have laid us, and those who will come after us, under a great obligation; we yet, while thanking you most sincerely, have resolved to ask your further assistance in the rebuilding of S. Mary's Church. In this we invite you to do that which will be an everlasting memorial of your name.

1490. Tametsi tua in nos beneficia ejusmodi sunt, ea presertim que ad constructionem scolarum juris canonici jamdudum conferebantur, ut

[1] No title.

non solum nos, quibus administratio Oxoniensis reipublice summe jam cure est, sed etiam eos, ad quorum manus ipsius reipublice administratio posthac devolvetur, tibi devinctos esse oporteat; tamen aliquid, post infinitas atque immortales gratias, quas tue reverende paternitati semper habebimus, ex tua paternitate modo petendum esse censuimus. Si tua dominatio aliquid beneficii nobis ecclesiam Beate Marie Virginis in Universitate Oxonie a fundamento construentibus prestare velit, talia ex tua reverenda dominatione beneficia processisse fatebimur, qualia ad tui nominis immortalitatem valitura esse nostrates omnes arbitrabuntur. Id ut facias te etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus, honorande pater.

416.

Priori Coventriensi.

We are very sensible of your generous behaviour towards our University; and do not conceal our gratitude, though at present we can see no way of making any return for your goodness. If there is anything in which you think we can serve you, consider that we shall be very ready to do it. We should very thankfully receive a donation, which your incorporation leads us to expect.

AMPLISSIMA tua beneficia, quibus nostram rempublicam Oxoniensem 1490.
jampridem affecisti, id efficiunt ut te virum Oxoniensis reipublice amantissimum nostrates omnes facillime intelligant atque apertissime predicent. Habemus tibi immortales gratias, quas utinam tibi aliquando referre possemus, pro hac tua in nos liberalitate. Non deërat nostrum studium ad excogitandas vias, ut pro tuis in nos beneficiis viros nos beneficiorum memores cognoscere posses. Quod si quicquam in nostra manu est, quod tibi conducere posse arbitraberis, id nos tibi libenter concessuros esse cogitato. Si te in Universitatem Oxoniensem pro suscipienda incorporatione conferre velis, rem nobis eque expectatam atque tibi gratam facies. Et diu vale, &c.

417.

Domino Johanni Halwell, militi: Magistris Ricardo Sherborn, Halse, et ffiztherberd, executoribus[1] episcopi Coventriensis.

The late bishop, to whom we wrote on the subject, expressed his approval of our design of rebuilding S. Mary's Church; and said—as

[1] *exaquutoribus* MS.

we are assured by trustworthy persons—that he would give twenty pounds, at the least, towards that object. You will now have the distribution of his effects, and among other charitable works we suggest the rebuilding of the church, a work, we would add, that will confirm the high opinion we have always held of your characters and—which is surely most to be desired—cause its authors to be remembered when they are dead.

1490. MISIMUS nostras litteras superioribus diebus ad reverendum patrem et dominum, dominum episcopum Coventriensem et Lichfildensem, dum in humanis ageret, quatenus aliquid ex sua liberalitate conferre dignaretur, ad constructionem ecclesie Beate Marie intra Universitatem Oxoniensem, quam his nostris[1] reëdificare instituimus. In tantum ipsi reverendo patri nostre littere placuerunt, que ex nobis mitterentur—Oxoniensis reipublice amantissimus dominus semper fuit—ut viginti libras, ad omne minus, se nobis daturum esse ultro polliceretur, uti ex fide dignorum relatione aperte satis intelleximus. Rogamus igitur vos, viri dignissimi—ad vestras manus nostri amantissimi domini bona jam disponenda traducta sunt—quatenus inter cetera pietatis officia nostri memores sitis, aliquid conferentes ad ipsam ecclesiam quod ejus fabrice conducere posse arbitrabimini. Si id feceritis, viros vos optimos, quales semper fuisse existimavimus, merito judicabimus. Id ut faciatis vos etiam atque etiam rogatos habemus. Quid in vita tam egregium quam id aliquando fecisse, quod et post mortem suum factorem reviviscere faciat? Poteritis jam ejusmodi in nos officium exercere liberalitatis, que vestra nomina, saltem in Oxoniensi republica, mortua esse nullo unquam tempore permissura erit. Valete.

418.

Fol. 168 a. **Magistro Johanni Paschao, residentiario in ecclesia Exoniensi.**

Our labours and anxieties have been great in the building of S. Mary's Church, and having now spent all the money we had collected from several generous friends, we have resolved to write to such other worshipful persons as have heretofore been most closely connected with us by friendly sympathies. To you then, as one of the most considerable, and one whose advancement in life has placed him in a position of influence and means, we now address ourselves; and we would observe that, in helping this cause, you will do what some have done unasked; what all our well-

[1] *diebus* omitted in MS.

wishers desire to see accomplished; and what will be an honour to yourself and a great benefit to the University. Either Dr. Taylor or Dr. Silke will take charge of any sum you may give.

CUM post nonnullos labores eosque gravissimos, gravissimas insuper curas, quas hoc tempore conficiendi ecclesiam Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi perpessi fuimus, nostras opes, a nonnullis amantissimis viris acquisitas, consumptas esse adverteremus; ad alios dignissimos viros, eos presertim, qui Oxoniensem rempublicam maximo semper amore complexi sunt, scribendum esse duximus. Cum igitur Oxoniensis reipublice amantissimus omnium judicio merito censendus sis, quique in illum virum evasisti, qui et auctoritate et potestate plurimum valeas, ad te potissimum nostras litteras modo perferendas esse curavimus. Quod si aliquid ex te dabitur ad construendam ecclesiam Beate Marie Oxoniis, que jam vetustissima est; id efficies quod nonnulli dignissimi viri sua sponte faciunt; id efficies quod amatores Oxoniensis reipublice omnes plurimum cupiunt; id efficies quod et tibi honori et Oxoniensi reipublice utilitati admodum erit. Rogamus te igitur majorem in modum, si quid ad hanc fabricam ex tua liberalitate tribuatur, ejus curam, ut ad nos secure perferatur, relinquas vel domino doctori Taylor vel domino doctori Silke, quorum utrumque Oxoniensis reipublice amantissimum esse cognoscimus. Et diu vale. 1490.

419.

Domino Thome Chawndelere, decano Herefordensi.

We have often called to mind the great affection you bore to this University, thriving and illustrious in your Chancellorship, and we cannot doubt you love it still: we have made up our minds, therefore, to tell you the state of our affairs. S. Mary's Church is so old and ruinous that we can no longer use it, as hitherto, for our solemn Acts, with any credit to ourselves. In undertaking the rebuilding of the Church, we have relied upon the help we should receive from our friends, by whose liberality we have already purchased and brought to Oxford a large part of the material for the ornamental stone work. If, as a mark of your old affection, you contribute something to this object, you will do what is at once serviceable and meritorious.

POSTEAQUAM diu atque frequenter nobiscum jampridem cogitassemus quam tibi chara Oxoniensis respublica semper ab ineunte etate fuerat, que te duce et rectore integerrima atque ornatissima semper fuit, putavimus pristinum illum tuum amorem nondum esse deletum. Quare 1490.

tuam reverendam paternitatem quo in statu ipsa respublica jam fuerit certiorem facere decrevimus. Suscepimus in nos jamdudum constructionem ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate: in qua quidem ecclesia propter nimiam ejus antiquitatem nostros actus nisi ad nostrum dedecus diutius celebrare non possumus. Neque id oneris et laboris in nos suscepissemus, nisi plurimum essemus fisi in bonitate nostrorum amicorum, quorum liberalitate effectum est ut magna atque ornata et polita pars lapidum ad ponendos muros comparata atque in Universitatem adducta sit. Si igitur pro veteri tua in nos dilectione tua reverentia aliquid auxilii huic operi concessura est, rem nobis eque utilem atque tibi, uti speramus, meritoriam facies. Quod ut facias tuam reverendam paternitatem etiam atque etiam rogatam habemus. Et diu valeat tua reverentia, digne decane.

420.

Magistro Roberto Jefferey, Archidiacono ecclesie Herefordensis.

Your numerous benefactions to this University and to individual members thereof are such as might well deter us from asking further favours, did not our present circumstances fully justify this application. Long deliberation how we may best proceed in the rebuilding of S. Mary's Church—which is in danger of falling from its great antiquity—have determined us to apply for help to our old friends; and your wealth and generosity to the deserving bid us invite you to help us in this great work.

1490. QUAMQUAM tua beneficia et in nostram rempublicam Oxoniensem et maxime in eos, qui in nostra Universitate litterarum studiis incubuerunt, collata talia sunt qualia nos ab amplioribus beneficiis ex te petendis juste retrahere possent; ejusmodi tamen occasionem nobis modo oblatam esse videmus, que nos non importunos sed justissimos petitores esse facile declarabit. Post diuturnas atque frequentes congregationes in nostra Universitate, in quibus longo temporis intervallo perstitimus, consulentes quomodo ecclesiam Marie Oxonie, que his nostris diebus ad tantam vetustatem pervenit ut prope casura esse videatur, denuo per nos construeretur, in ipsam tandem sententiam pervenimus ut veteres Universitatis amicos super ejus constructione admonitos faceremus, atque ut nobis succurrant eosdem rogatos haberemus. Cum igitur in eum virum evasisti, dignissime archidiacone, qui multa atque merito possideas, quique cotidie beneficia prestas in quoscunque de te benemeritos, te rogatum habemus qua-

tenus, non obstantibus tuis superioribus tum in nostram rempublicam tum in nostros viros scholasticos beneficiis, nobis in tantis nostris laboribus auxilium ferre velis. Quicquid nobis ex tua reverentia dabitur, id erit nobis majorem in modum gratum. Id ut facias tuam reverentiam etiam atque etiam rogatam habemus. Diu vale, dignissime archidiacone.

421.

Reverendo patri et domino, domino Thome, divina providentia Herefordensi episcopo.

Though by your generosity to us, particularly as manifested by your exhibitions to students, you have won a name for liberality and bounty, and we are reluctant to ask for further help, yet the dilapidated structure of S. Mary's Church is in so serious a condition as to threaten a speedy fall. We are now writing, therefore, every day to such of our old friends as are able to assist us, invoking their aid. The stone for the work is being raised from the quarries, and much of it already prepared for use, but the undertaking is arduous; and we beg for your help, in return for which we can promise you the gratitude of future generations.

Etsi te eum erga nos nostramque rempublicam semper prebuisti ut **1490.** te dominum beneficentissimum atque liberalissimum merito appellare debeamus, pro his maxime beneficiis quibus non paucos nostre Universitatis studentes liberalissime atque beneficentissime affecisti, in ea tamen tempora devenimus, que, non obstantibus superioribus illisque maximis tuis beneficiis, nos modo ad tuam reverendam dominationem pro petendo atque habendo auxilio confugere impellunt. Satis nosti, dignissime presul, cum Oxoniis ipse ageres, quanta antiquitate ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis intra Universitatem afficiebatur. Hec in tantam jam vetustatem pervenit, ut non solum dedecus ejus tectum—undecunque lacerum est—afferat, verum de casu atque ruina previdere atque curare nos faciat. Transcribuntur nostre littere cotidie ad veteres Universitatis amicos, inter quos cum te in virum preclarissimum dominumque prestantissimum atque amantissimum evasisse perspiciamus, rem hanc tante paternitati significandam esse decrevimus. Effodiuntur cotidie lapides ad construendam ecclesiam, ex quibus magna pars polita atque positioni parata est. Si igitur nobis tantos labores ingredientibus tua veneranda dominatio in aliquo subvenire dignum duxerit, id efficiet ut quem nos jam vehementer atque merito diligimus tota nostra posteritas post multa secula amare atque perpetuo recordari debeat. Id ut tua prestans dominatio faciat vehementer petimus atque rogamus etiam atque etiam. Et diu valeat tua reverenda paternitas.

422.

Fol. 168 b.

Episcopo Rofensi.

We now see by experience what it is to build such a church as S. Mary's. We have had however one encouragement, than which there could be none greater, in freely spending all we had upon the work; and that is the opportunity hereby presented to the more distinguished sons of Oxford of assisting their mother the University in this undertaking. If you will give a substantial contribution, you will lay us under an everlasting obligation.

1490. Cum nostras opes, post susceptum opus construendi ecclesiam Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, defecisse ac prope consumptas esse jampridem conspexissemus; quarum expositionem tanto minus curavimus quod alios viros ad prestanda beneficia alacriores atque promptiores redderemus, nihil nos tam consolari potuit quam nostram Universitatem ejusmodi filios edidisse, qui eidem sue matri—tum quia prudentissimi tum quia potentissimi—facile subvenire possent. Comperimus tandem quid sit tantam ecclesiam conficere. Si igitur tua reverenda dominatio aliquo nos beneficii genere donatos relinquat quod ad hanc ecclesiam construendam utile censebitur, id tuam prestantissimam dominationem fecisse judicabimus, quod nos perpetuo tibi devotos esse faciet.

423.

Episcopo Norwicensi.

No doubt there are those who will consider us foolish in having undertaken the rebuilding of S. Mary's Church, when we foresaw that our funds would be insufficient: yet we were so distressed at the state of the building—so bad that we have long been unable to hold our academical meetings there—that we preferred to incur their censure rather than neglect the vital interests of our University. Your assistance will be most thankfully received.

1490. Etsi nos quorumdam fortasse judiciis multum imprudenter fecisse censebimur, quod ecclesiam Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi his diebus construendam esse curavimus, presertim cum ad tantum edificium ponendum ipsi nostras opes haud suffecturas esse previderimus; tamen permoti tam[1] ipsius ecclesie vetustate—que nobis jam diu impedimento fuit quominus in ea nostros actus, uti

[1] Or perhaps *tum* MS. Read *Cum tamen permoti*, &c.; cf. ep. 425.

consuevimus, celebrare potuimus—in nostrorum amicorum liberalitate confisi, ipsius ecclesie fabricam atque constructuram aggressi sumus, potius elegimus id nobis imprudentie et vicio dari, quam nostre reipublice salutem atque integritatem non curare. Si igitur tua reverenda paternitas aliquo nos beneficio afficere velit, quod huic nostre fabrice conducere possit, rem nos gratissimam abs tua reverenda dominatione accepisse fatebimur. Et diu, &c.

424.

Episcopo Eliensi.

The objects of benevolence are often those best known or most loved; yet it is in their desire to help the needy, though not known to them, that we see the generosity and charity of the noblest and wisest of men. We have no merits and no services to plead, the more therefore do we reckon upon your wide sympathies and generosity in appealing for help to rebuild the ruinous Church of S. Mary, the scene of all our Academical Acts.

ETSI id frequentissime faciunt omnes sapientissimi viri ut nullos, 1490.
nisi ex his quos vel notissimos vel dilectos plurimum habent, magnis beneficiis afficiant, ipsam tamen plerumque in gravissimis sapientissimisque viris et humanitatem et liberalitatem perspicimus, ut indigentibus etsi ignotis plurimum prodesse frequenter studeant. Fatemur equidem, gravissime prudentissimeque domine, nulla[1] nostra—id quod scis—in te officia tanta aliquando extitisse, que quicquam beneficii abs tua prestanti dominatione merito et jure aliquo vel vindicare vel sperare possemus[2]. Magis igitur tua humanitate atque liberalitate quam ullis nostris erga te beneficiis adducti, rogamus te ut huic nostre petitioni alienum te non prebeas. Tam est annosa ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, in qua celeberrimos Universitatis actus nostri majores hucusque semper celebrarunt, ut ipsam ecclesiam in brevi casuram esse, nisi ejus vetustati citissime succurratur, dicere non vereamur. Quicquid tua prestantia ad hoc edificium conferre velit id erit nobis profecto gratissimum.

425.

Doctori Borton.

Our censors, who may blame us for not foreseeing that our scanty means would fail us, will hardly disapprove our work, if they reflect that the condition of the building was such that it was not only a disgrace to

[1] *ulla* MS. [2] *possent?*

the University, but a personal danger to ourselves. We beg you will excuse the brevity of our letter, and be sure of our great gratitude for any money you can send us.

1490. Si qui sint qui nostrum factum fortasse condemnabunt, quod in tanta nostrarum pecuniarum tenuitate, quam previdisse debueramus, constructionem ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate aggressi sumus; cum tamen, tum ut nos omni periculo liberaremus—ipsa profecto ecclesia nimium vetusta atque confracta est—tum[1] ad Universitatis decorem, id nos fecisse animadverterint, ab eisdem hunc nostrum construendi laborem probatum iri existimavimus. Haud te diutius nostris litteris fatigabimus. Quicquid abs te ad hujus ecclesie fabricam concedetur, id erit nobis majorem in modum gratum. Volumus atque rogamus ignoscas huic brevitati nostrarum litterarum.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1490. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem North et Robertum Wykys, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitate Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum sexto, mensis Decembris die septimo.*

426.

Doctori Sylk.

Your goodness shows how great is your love for us, and we shall never forget it, nor do we desire to express our gratitude only for those benefits you at this present time so abundantly and openly pour upon us, but also for the intention you not obscurely manifest to help us in the future: it is the motive of the giver that enhances the gift. We have no means of rewarding you, for, though we have enrolled you among our benefactors and made you a partaker of our prayers for them, we feel that we have not done all we ought to do. Please excuse the shortness of this letter; we are very busy, stones are being laid, walls and posts are being removed, and the work is in full swing.

[1] *tum* repeated over the line, MS.

TUA in nos immortalia beneficia facile ostendunt[1] quanto nos amore prosequeris. Habemus tibi infinitas gratias, cum pro his, que in nos posthac tua sponte te facturum esse latenter ostendis, tum pro his, que in Oxoniensem rempublicam liberalissime gratissimeque hos prope dies gratissime atque apertissime feceris. Tanto tua in nos beneficia pluris estimabuntur quanto ex animo liberali atque grato, imo verius gratissimo atque liberalissimo, processerunt. Non sunt equidem in nostra potestate cum quibus parem tibi gratiam referentes respondeamus; qui, etsi te inter benefactores Universitatis numerandum censuimus, addentes preterea—partim tuorum erga nos meritorum permoti, partim vero rogatibus venerabilis viri tui amantissimi, domini doctoris Taylor, atque precibus adducti—ut suffragiorum posthac in Universitate dicendorum particeps fieres, tamen nos nostro officio vix satisfecisse arbitramur. Parce huic brevitati nostrarum litterarum. Sumus jam in mediis laboribus: aptantur lapides positioni, assidue divelluntur parietes, postes removentur, laboratur vehementer. Nulla ex te beneficia aut recepimus aut recipiemus, que nobis non gratissima atque probatissima erunt. Cetera que voles accipies ex doctore Taylore, cui carissimus es. Et nos tui semper amantissimos fore tibi persuadeas. *Oxonie Idibus Decembribus.* 1490. Fol. 169a

427.

Magistro W. Holcombe, precentori de Seynt-mare-otrey.

If we felt any doubt as to your liberality and readiness to help us, we should use a more studied form in asking your help for the work we have in hand. We have, as you have doubtless heard, and shall have, until we have rebuilt S. Mary's, a very absorbing work in hand: and we hope that you, whose close connexion with us dates from your very childhood, will render us some aid; a thing not difficult just now, when no offering will be unwelcome.

SI de tua in nos voluntate et liberalitate dubitaremus, multis verbis et rogatibus a te peteremus ut Oxoniensi reipublice in hac ejus necessitate succurreres. Paucis ad te verbis utendum esse censuimus, presertim cum is vir sis qui haud multis rogatibus tua sponte in omnes de te benemeritos multa beneficia liberalissime[2] frequenter conferre soles. Non dubitamus quin ad te perlatum sit quantus nos labor quantaque assiduitas occupat atque occupabit, quousque ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate, quam his temporibus reëdificare instituimus, integra 1490.

[1] *quo in nos animo sitis* written over the line in contemporary hand.
[2] *libelarissime* MS.

perfectaque nostris laboribus reddatur. Valde igitur nobis[1] gratum feceris, si pro veteri tua necessitudine, quam ab ipsis fere cunabulis nobiscum contraxisti, Oxoniensi reipublice statim succurrendum esse duxeris. Id facillimum factu existimabis, cum nulla beneficia his saltem temporibus ex nostris amicis in nos emanare possunt, quin eadem, que hoc tempore laboris, sudoris atque necessitatis superveniunt, a nobis omnibus gratissima judicentur. Vale.

428.

Doctori Lee[2].

It has been necessary to invite the assistance of our old friends, to enable us to carry out the building of S. Mary's Church, a laborious undertaking, as you are, no doubt, aware; we believe all will soon be glad that they have contributed to this object, and shall gladly accept any sum you can give.

1490. Etsi ea est conditio nostre reipublice, ut nostra jam interesse perspiciamus veteres Universitatis amicos pro eadem republica conservanda atque augenda admonitos rogatosque habere, putamus tamen atque speramus in brevi fore nullos ex[3] nostris benefactoribus posse reperiri, qui nos beneficiis affecerunt, quin id sese fecisse letentur plurimum atque vehementer gestiant. Non putamus te latere, peregregie doctor, quantis nos laboribus versamur pro construenda ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate. Si quid igitur, quod eidem edificio utile esse existimabis, fueris elargitus, maximum nos ex te beneficium accepisse fatebimur.

429.

Magistro Willelmo Mertone.

When we had begun the rebuilding of S. Mary's, we found our resources fail sooner than we had expected, and now write to you, as one of the oldest friends we have, and assure you that we shall be very sensible of your liberality if you will help us; and in so doing you may be reckoned as it were a benefactor to your country, than which Cicero says there is no nobler title to honour.

Cum post susceptum initium renovandi ecclesiam Beate Marie, quam propter ejus vetustatem ad nostre Universitatis decorem reëdi-

[1] *nobis* repeated in MS. [2] On the margin is written 'Doctori Sutton.' Probably the same letter was sent to both. [3] Over the line is written *his qui nos beneficiis affecerunt* MS.

ficare necesse erat, nostras facultates multo pauciores quam ab ipso initio putavimus repente factas esse vidissemus, nostre reipublice caritate impulsi, cujus amantissimus ipse etiam semper fuisti, ad te censuimus esse scribendum. Si igitur nostre reipublice utilitati inservieris, te viri liberalissimi atque preclarissimi officio functum esse non tacebimus ; cum nihil ex omnibus rebus humanis, ut apud Ciceronem legimus, preclarius aut prestantius sit quam de republica benemereri. Rem te nobis pergratam fecisse cogitato, si has ad te litteras non frustra perscripsisse tandem intelleximus.

430.

Magistro Thome Reeve.

The consciousness of our poverty, of which we soon became sensible when we had begun to rebuild S. Mary's Church, is bitter, but, we hope, will not last long ; since we have so many friends of the very kind an emergency such as the present requires ; and there is nothing one should not do or bear cheerfully in the service of the common weal.

UBI ecclesiam Beate Marie in nostra Universitate jamdudum re- **1490.**
ëdificare ceperamus, aliqua statim acerbitas ex penuria pecuniarum subito est subsecuta. Speramus tamen istam acerbitatem non diuturnam fore, cum nostre Universitatis amatores[1] tales sint quales presertim hoc tempore esse debeant. Nihil nobis tam difficile aut acerbum putabitur quod pro republica grato vultu atque equo animo suscipi sustinerique non debeat. Volumus tibi persuadeas, dilectissime confrater, cumulum beneficiorum te in nos dedisse, si quo beneficio Oxoniensem rempublicam modo donaturus sis. Vale.

431.

Magistro Thome Haywode, decano Lichfeldensi; et Magistro Georgio Stranguyssh, doctori.

We have received the sum of forty shillings, and are very grateful for this and your previous services which are ever fresh in our memory.

VESTRA in nos merita id jam efficiunt, dignissimi viri, ut vestri **1490.**
semper memores atque amantissimi perpetuo esse debeamus. Afferebantur a vobis circiter nonas Decembres quadraginta solidi. Habe- **Fol. 169 b.**
mus igitur vobis immortales gratias. Putabimus certe nostri officii semper posthac interesse, quibuscunque in rebus poterimus, vestris honestissimis voluntatibus morem gerere ; et diu valete.

[1] *amici* written over the line, MS.

432.

Vicario de Tawnton.

You, who have gone through it, know how great is the anxiety they have to bear, who undertake the building of a large and beautiful church, as we now do. S. Mary's Church here is so old that we are obliged to rebuild it, and we ask your contribution, amongst others, for that object. Any sum will be acceptable.

1490. Non potest te latere, dilectissime confrater, cum experimento cognoveris, quantis sollicitudinibus atque curis illi afficiuntur, qui ecclesiam novam magnam atque ornatam facere innituntur. Considerata namque hos prope dies antiquitate ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi, nostri officii interesse existimavimus tante illius ecclesie vetustati esse succurrendum. Hec cum ejusmodi sint, ad nostros amicos, ut nobis in tantis laboribus constitutis auxilio esse velint, scribendum esse duximus. Nihil ex te beneficii nobis conferetur, quod non nobis gratum nostreque reipublice utilissimum erit.

433.

Vicario de Ilmyster et duobus aliis.

Nothing, we think, is too difficult for those who have at heart the general welfare. Acting, therefore, on this principle we have undertaken the entire rebuilding of S. Mary's Church, ruinous from its great antiquity, and are now busily engaged upon the work. Your help will be at once most useful to us and honourable to yourself.

1490. Posteaquam nobis dudum in mentem venisset nihil tam grave tamque arduum esse debere, quod optimus quisque civis reipublice causa lete jocundeque suscipere non deberet; ad id nos convertimus perficiendum quod ejusmodi cives in republica facere necesse erat. Post longam considerationem quanta vetustate ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate esset correpta, optimum factu tandem existimavimus eandem ecclesiam penitus delendam esse: atque id ipsum modo facimus, novam ecclesiam construentes assiduissime. Si nos tantam ecclesiam construentes aliquo beneficii genere juveris, id efficies quod nobis omnibus nostreque reipublice admodum utile tibique summo honori erit.

434.

Magistro Roberto Sheffelde.

To have been useless in his generation is a disgrace which every right-minded man will dread; and, when we saw how dilapidated S. Mary's Church was, it seemed we should incur this reproach if we did not set about rebuilding it without delay. We ask for your help; and anything you may give to effect a speedy and creditable restoration will be gratefully received as the offering of a kind and true friend.

NIHIL sane tam turpe tamque fugiendum apud bonos cives existi- 1490.
mari debet, quam tales in republica eos extitisse, quales inutiles jure affirmare solemus. Nemo nostro judicio est cui non studendum erit vehementer ut id fugiat atque vitet. Quum hos prope dies animadvertissemus quanta vetustate ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi his nostris temporibus esset affecta—illius autem ecclesie vetustas eo creverat ut etiam nobis summo dedecori esset—una omnium sententia fuit tante vetustati citissime esse succurrendum. Qualiacumque igitur tua in nos beneficia erunt, quo celerius decentiusque hoc nostrum edificium compleatur, tanti ea existimabimus quanti humanissimi amantissimique viri beneficia merito existimare nos deceat. Vale.

435.

Magistro T. Forster, archidiacono et residenti in ecclesia S. Pauli.

Your benevolence in the past sufficiently proves your kind interest in us, and we know that we could not repay it by any means at our disposal. No doubt the letters of others have told you what we are doing in the rebuilding of S. Mary's Church. It is a very laborious undertaking, and you will render us a great service by advocating our claims upon their charity with such worshipful persons as you may be able to influence in our behalf.

TUA in nos immortalia beneficia facile ostendunt quo in nos animo 1490.
semper fueris. Tanto ipsa tua preclarissima in nos beneficia pluris semper existimabimus, quanto ex animo liberali atque grato, imo verius liberalissimo gratissimoque processerunt. Si omnes nostras opes in tua causa effunderemus, vix nos ulli parti tantorum in nos beneficiorum respondisse putaremus. Quantis nos jam laboribus afficiamur pro conficienda ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate

putamus te ex aliorum litteris intellexisse. Rem nobis utilem valde feceris si aliorum dignissimorum virorum animos tuis verbis ad conferenda in nos beneficia commoveris. Vale.

436.

Hugoni, episcopo Menevensi.

Though the pursuit of our studies should, before all other subjects, occupy our minds, yet we cannot allow ourselves to be so engrossed by them as to be indifferent to the tranquillity and welfare of the society in which we live. Seeing, therefore, for a long time past, the ruinous and disgraceful condition of S. Mary's Church, we have resolved to rebuild it, and with this object ask your help, at the same time assuring you of our sincere gratitude for any contribution you may afford us.

1490. Etsi nos postpositis aliis curis litterarum studiis potissimum deditos esse decet, non sic tamen nostros animos ad ipsa preclara litterarum studia jam conferendos esse censemus, quin peractis primum aliquot laboribus, nostre reipublice causa susceptis, in pacatissima tandem atque integerrima republica vivendum esse cupiamus. Quis enim locus studii relictus erit his viris scolasticis in quorum conspectu ipsa respublica deficere atque prope peritura esse videtur? Ubi dudum mature apud nos cogitassemus nimio nos dedecore diutissime affectos esse, ex illa vetustate ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxonie, tantum dedecus nobis amotum esse cupientes ipsius ecclesie reëdificationem in nos ipsos convertimus. Quicquid igitur tanta paternitate dignum tua reverenda dominatio in nos concesserit, id erit nobis majorem in modum gratum. Quod ut facias tuam prestantiam rogatam habemus etiam atque etiam, presul dignissime. Et diu, &c.

437.

Fol. 170 a.

Abbati de ffuntens.

A short time ago we undertook the rebuilding of the ancient church of S. Mary; and, as our welfare is bound up in that of our University, we think we ought to let our friends, and especially those of them who are in high places in the world, know what we are doing. Our expenditure is very great, and you cannot give us anything that will not be most welcome.

1490. Quoniam nos omnes, qui in salute Oxoniensis reipublice omnem salutem nostram repositam esse arbitramur, ecclesiam Beate Marie in

nostra Universitate antiquissimam funditus eversam non procul ab his diebus construere cepissemus; illius ecclesie reĕdificationem non abdendam atque occultandam nostris amicis, imo preclarissimis prestantissimisque viris significandam esse voluimus. Non poterit profecto tua reverenda paternitas Oxoniensem rempublicam, maximis frequentissimis insuper jam expensis occupatam, ejusmodi beneficio his saltem temporibus afficere, quod, quum abs tua reverenda paternitate tribuatur, non gratissimum merito judicetur. Et diu valeat, &c.

438.

Priori de Dereham.

You have, we suppose, heard of our great undertaking, in demolishing and rebuilding our ancient church of S. Mary. We cannot think we should regret having taken this step, for private ease and comfort must not be allowed to interfere with that duty which all good men owe to the society in which they live. Your help is earnestly solicited.

PUTAMUS ad tuas aures pervenisse, dignissime atque amantissime Prior, quantus nos labor quanta preterea cura teneat de conficienda ecclesia Beate Marie Oxonie; quam modo—que vetustissima erat—usque ad ipsa prima fundamenta evertimus. Atque ejus facti nusquam penitentes erimus, quum reipublice dignitas privatis commodis semper preferenda sit. Non sunt illi labores a bonis civibus recusandi, ex quibus ipsa respublica utilitatis aliquid acceptura est. Rem te nobis desideratissimam fecisse intelligito, si nobis in his nostris laboribus adjumento fueris. 1490.

Acquittance of the Executors of Hugh Feen, for a sum of £200, to found a Chest.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russel, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistros Johannem Northe et Robertum Wyks, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, in nomine Universitatis antedicte, a venerabilibus viris domino Henrico Haydon milite et Edmundo[1] Jenney, executoribus ultime voluntatis bone memorie Hugonis Feen nuper defuncti, ducentas libras sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie, ex legato dicti Hugonis ad fundationem cujusdam ciste infra Universitatem nostram antedictam: De qua quidem summa ducentarum librarum fatemur nos esse solutos et eosdem dominum H. Haydon et E. Jenney esse quietos per presentes. In 1490.

[1] *Edmundum* MS.

cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostre Universitatis apposuimus. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum sexto, die mensis Marcii primo*[1].

439.

By the Quene.

1490. RIGHT reverend fadre in god, right trusti and welbeloved, we grete you wele[2]: And where We at this tyme doò send unto the Universite of you, to be at oure exhibition, oure welbeloved Henry Haute, berer of thise, of whoos wele and preferrement we be right desirous; not oonly for the good service which his fadre and other his frends have heretofor doon unto us, but also for the grete desire and appetite that he hath to atteigne connyng, as in hym hidreto it wele appereth; We desire and pray you in oure right harti wyse, that the rather at the contemplacion of us ye wille have the saide Henry towardys you especially recommended; shewing unto him, in anythyng[3] thay may be for his wele and profite among you, youre good favour and benevolence: whereby, his habilitees and towardnesses considered, we trust ye shal not oonly doo a good dede, but also for the same largely deserve our especiall thanks. *Yeven undre oure signet at my lordis palois of Westm^r., the xv day of ffebruary.*

l. 170 b. **A Regulation of the University respecting the tailors.**

Whereas many petitions and complaints have been presented to us by the Master and proctors of the tailors' guild in Oxford, representing how grievously they have long suffered from the competition of petty tradesmen in the suburbs within the precinct of the University; who contribute nothing towards the stipend of the chaplain celebrating mass for the said guild, nor to other customary payments made by all members thereof, while at the same time they make equal profits with those who do pay; we now, desiring to redress this grievance, hereby grant and concede to the aforesaid Master and proctors, that henceforth no one shall practise the tailor's art, or any other art connected therewith, until, after strict inquiry by the said Master and proctors, he shall be found to have contributed to the aforesaid stipend and customary payments, as the members of the guild do. And, any one acting in contravention of this our concession, shall be liable to a fine of six shillings and eightpence, for

[1] In the margin is added *primo die Martii A.D. MXC.*, which a later hand has corrected to 1490. [2] *well* MS., corrected by the writer to *wele*. [3] *thyngs* corrected in MS.

the first offence, whereof one moiety shall be paid to the University for its common use, and the other moiety to the said tailors' guild for their use: for a second offence the fine shall be thirteen shillings and fourpence, and for the third offence twenty shillings; to be divided between the University and the said guild, as herein provided. But, any provisions herein contained notwithstanding, all poor and needy scholars, resorting hither for the purpose of study, may make their own clothes without let or hindrance. And, further, this concession shall only be valid so long as the Master and proctors of the said guild continue to observe the regulation of the University as to the making of the clothes of scholars, paying annually three shillings and fourpence, and electing as their chaplain a regent master approved by the Chancellor and proctors, if such a master can be found willing to undertake the office.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie universusque cetus magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem in omnium Salvatore. Post nonnullas supplicationes frequentes insuper querelas, coram nobis jam dudum factas per magistrum et procuratores artis scissorie; ostendentes quantum detrimenti illa ars diutissime acceperit per eos presertim, qui opellas in suburbiis Universitatis Oxonie et intra precinctum ejusdem tenuerunt, nihil solventes ad conductionem sive stipendium capellani celebrantis pro eodem artificio, neque ad alias consuetudines, prout alii artifices ejusdem artificii in Universitate commorantes ab antiquo solvere consueverunt; paritate lucri cum his qui ad istam solutionem artantur non obstante; tantas enormitates penitus amovere cupientes, tandem eisdem magistro et procuratoribus predicti artificii pro futuris temporibus, in quantum in nobis est, concedimus; In primis, quod nullus de cetero occupabit neque exercebit predictum artificium, neque aliud pertinens eidem artificio, nisi prius facta diligenti et fideli examinatione per magistrum et procuratores ejusdem artis, prout ceteri ipsius fraternitatis sive artificii solvere tenentur. Et si aliquis, post legitimam monitionem in hac parte factam, in posterum reperiatur, qui illud artificium alio modo quam ut premittitur tenere presumat infra ejusdem Universitatis precinctum, liceat procuratoribus Universitatis et magistro predicti artificii artare primo sic delinquentem ad solutionem sex solidorum et octo denariorum, quorum tres solidos quatuor denarios ad communem usum Universitatis, tres solidos quatuor denarios ad predicti artificii utilitatem converti volumus: Et si quis secundo deliquerit, compellatur per procuratores Universitatis et magistrum et procuratores illius artis ad solutionem tredecim solidorum quatuor denariorum, quorum sex solidos octo denarios Universitati et sex

1490.

solidos octo denarios dicto artificio converti volumus: Et si quis tertio deliquerit, viginti solidos procuratoribus Universitatis et magistro et procuratoribus dicti artificii eandem summam exigentibus solvere teneatur: cujus quidem summe viginti solidorum sex solidos octo denarios ad utilitatem Universitatis, sex solidos octo denarios domino Cancellario sive ejus commissario et procuratoribus Universitatis inter se dividendos, et sex solidos octo denarios ad predicti artificii comodum converti permittimus. Volentes preterea, premissis non obstantibus, ut pauperes et indigentes scolares causa studii ad Universitatem venientes, si qui tales erunt, sua indumenta atque vesturas proprias nullo impediente facere possint. Permittimus preterea eisdem magistro et procuratoribus antedicti artificii hanc illis concessam libertatem ratam et firmam esse, quamdiu, non excedentes antiquam consuetudinem per congregationem determinatam de indumentis scolarium faciendis, tres solidos quatuor denarios Universitati annuatim solverint, incipiendo in festo Pasche post datum presentium; atque elegerint[1] magistrum in artibus regentem in capellanum dicti artificii; in quem quidem capellanum eligendum Cancellarius Universitatis, sive ejus commissarius, et procuratores Universitatis assensum prebuerint, quoties contingat electionem fieri, et nullum alium, si quis magister reperiatur qui hoc officium capellani suscipere velit. *Datum*[2] *in nostre congregationis domo, sub sigillo communi Universitatis, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo die mensis Marcii vicesimo primo.*

440.

Fol. 171 a.

To the Queen.

We have received your letter commending to our affectionate care Henry Haut, in years a youth, but old in character and attainments; and we will gladly do your bidding, both for the sake of his virtues and learning and also because it is your desire. Your majesty may always command us as her most loving servants.

1490. Serenissime atque excellentissime domine, domine Elisabeth, Dei gratia regine Anglie nobilissime, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis, cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in sese, cum omni reverentia subjectione et amore commendatos faciunt. Perferebantur nobis vestre celsitudinis littere circiter Kalendas Marcias, serenissima regina, ex quibus facile intelleximus tantam celsitudinem plurimum cupere Henricum Haut, qui hos prope dies sese ad nostram Universitatem

[1] *elegerunt* MS. [2] *Date* ib

contulit, etate juvenem, scientia et moribus senem, apud nos carum esse. Id nos libenter faciemus, cum propter ejus virtutes et doctrinas, quas non est facile reperire in ea etate, tum propter vestre celsitudinis mandata. Nihil est, excellentissima regina, quod mandante tanta celsitudine non libenter faciemus. Illi nos semper erimus quibus tanquam domesticis amantissimis tanta majestas in omnibus uti valeat: ac nos vestre celsitudinis amantes semper erimus. Vestre celsitudinis amantissimi, &c.

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Johannem North et Robertum [1], ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo sexto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum sexto.* 1490.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Johannem North et Robertum [1], ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum: De quibus quidem quinquaginta duobus solidis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, vicesimo sexto die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum sexto.* 1490.

441.

From the King.

REVEREND and rygth welbelovyd, I commaund me hartely to you, desyryng and especially prayng you ye wyll, at the instance of þis my wrytyng, shew yor wery good wylles and favore unto my rygth welbelovyd chapelaune, maister Wyllyam Gresholme, in all suche thyngs as he hathe to do within the Universite of Oxinford; havyng 1490.

[1] Surname omitted in MS.

in consideracion that the seyd master Wyllyam ys rygth trew, wertueus and well disposid; and þt ye wolle ayde and assiste hym in lawful maner to recover and opteyne all suche duties as to hym belongyth of rygth, as well there as ellys where: Wherein, ye, thus doyng, shall do to me rygth synguler plesurs, and cause me to do hereaftyr that may be asmosche to þe pleasure of you or any of you at yor desyers, by þe grace of god, who kepe you. Wretyn yn Grenewych the vii day of May.

442[1].

Having long reflected upon the great regard and affection you have heretofore shown toward us, we have thought it would not be useless to write and tell you how great are the trouble and expense under which we are at this present crushed. We suppose you must have heard how S. Mary's Church has been in part beautifully rebuilt by our great endeavours and the assistance of our friends. Few, to whom we have written, have failed to respond to our appeal. The object for which we plead is noble and beautiful, and your co-operation will reflect credit upon yourselves, and confer a great benefit upon us.

1490. Cum dudum apud nos cogitassemus, quanta dilectione quanta etiam observantia Oxoniensem rempublicam semper antehac prosecuti fueritis, viri amantissimi, non inutile eidem reipublice fore existimavimus, si quantis turbationibus et expensis indies afficitur, vel potius opprimitur, vestras reverentias his nostris litteris certiores redderemus. Putamus profecto ad vestras aures pervenisse, quam ornata pars ecclesie Beate Marie Oxonie nostris ingentissimis curis nostrorumque
Fol. 171 b. amicorum auxiliis a fundamento constructa erectaque sit. Pauci sunt ex nostris amicis, quibus hos nostros construendi labores significamus, qui ad hoc edificium aliqua beneficia non contulere. Nihil honestius ac magnificentius nostro judicio, quam pecunias ad beneficentiam liberalitatemque conferre, presertim si vel amicissimis viris vel reipublice prodesse posse videantur. Id si vos feceritis, amicissimorum virorum in numero merito censendi estis. Nullum enim beneficium frustra quemquam dedisse arbitramur, quod ad publicam utilitatem conferentisque ad laudem atque meritum collatum erat. Optime valete, humanissimi amantissimique viri. *Oxonie, a nostre congregationis domo, septimo Idus Maii.*

[1] No title or address in MS.

443.

Magistro Ricardo[1] . . . . et . . .

To endeavour by their watchful exertions that the society, of which they are members, may not sink crushed by poverty or misfortune, is surely incumbent on all good citizens. We therefore ask your assistance in rebuilding S. Mary's Church. The walls and pillars were now rising, as by magic, to a goodly elevation, but our money is all spent in workmen's wages, and the building is stopped. Dr. Taylor will take charge of any money you may give.

NIHIL certe a bonis civibus in integerrima republica constitutis 1490.
tam iniquum existimari debet quam, cum ipsa respublica inopia aut jactura laborare ceperit, non vehementissime laborare, quo ipsam rempublicam prope perituram suis vigiliis et laboribus reviviscere faciant. Hinc est quod ipse nostre littere ad te modo perferuntur, vir humanissime. Quum muri atque columpne ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate, tamquam subito crevissent, in miram decentiam atque altitudinem hos prope dies erigerentur, nostre pecunie, sine quibus tantum edificium perfectum esse nequeat, artificum multitudine absumpte sunt. Te igitur iterum atque iterum rogatum habemus, vir humanissime, ut ad perfectionem inchoati per nos edificii aliquo beneficio nobis subvenire velis. Gratissimum certe nobis feceris, si in hac nostra petitione morem nobis gesseris. Nihil ex te dabitur quod venerabilis vir et doctor Taylor, Exoniensis ecclesie Cancellarius, non libenter recipiet. Et diu, &c.

444.

Abbatibus de Evesham; Gloucestrie; Bury[2].

We know that your care for the University is such as a good man ought to feel; and probably you have often heard of the difficulties we encounter in rebuilding S. Mary's Church. Since, therefore, liberality is most effectual and acceptable when its object is at once useful and ornamental, we think we may justly hope for the help of those who occupy, as you do, a high position in the world, in the arduous task of rebuilding S. Mary's, in which we are now engaged. It is our chief comfort to find that those most competent to form an opinion approve of what we are doing.

[1] The surname is but partly legible, and appears to be Bradley or some similar name; the rest of the address [two words] is illegible, partly from injury to the MS. [2] This address is on the margin, as also are the names, Magistris Effrens, Rowley, Pollard.

1490. TANTE semper cure Oxoniensis reipublice statum tue paternitati fuisse cognovimus, religiosissime pater, quante equidem cure optimo viro prestantissimoque domino optima queque respublica merito esse debeat. Non putamus tuam dominationem in hunc diem non intellexisse, imo certe quod ad tuam paternitatem frequenter pervenerit, quanta nos cura in construenda ecclesia gloriosissime Virginis Marie in nostra Universitate indies gravissime perturbat. Ipsa profecto liberalitas gratissima atque optima ducenda est, ex qua tota respublica non parum decoris atque utilitatis acceptura sit. Si quid igitur beneficii abs tua reverentia ad hoc nostrum beneficium[1] prestabitur, beneficium in nos maximum tantum patrem contulisse non tacebimus. Quoniam[2] non nisi vehementer gratum nobis esse potuit nostras preces atque supplicationes apud prestantissimos dominos plurimum semper valuisse, quanto jam magis id nos optare[3] necesse est, quibus constructio ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxonie novas curas indies afferre videtur. Nihil est quod magis atque frequentius consoletur nos in hac construendi atque edificandi assiduitate, quam id, quod nos de conficienda ecclesia communi sententia statuerimus, omnium gravissimorum prudentissimorumque virorum judiciis et testimoniis esse comprobatum. Si igitur pro tua prudentia atque liberalitate considerabis, honorande pater, aliquid ad istius ecclesie reëdificationem esse ex te tribuendum, amantissimi atque prudentissimi patris officium in te suscepisse arbitrabimur.

Indenture. Lease of 'William' Hall.

Lease of 'William' Hall and garden, adjoining Merton College, to Master Richard Ruthyn, vicar of Iffley, for a term of twenty-four years, at a rent reserved of two shillings a year. The tenant to spend three pounds on the buildings within the next two years, and, at the expiration of the lease, deliver them to the landlords in good repair.

1490. HEC indentura facta anno regni regis Henrici septimi a conquestu sexto, die mensis Julii sexto, inter reverendum in Christo patrem et dominum, dominum Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et Johannem Wetherel, Thomam Hobbys[4], ejusdem procuratores, et magistros regentes in eadem ex una parte, et dominum Ricardum Ruthyn, vicarium de Iftelei

[1] *beneficium*, probably a mistake for *edificium*, MS. [2] At this place, in the margin, is written *Abbatibus de Hayles*; *S. Albani*; *de Tewkesbury*, and this is probably a separate letter—from *Quoniam* onwards. There is, however, no break in the MS.; but the letters in this part of the volume are in very small writing and crowded closely together, the majority of them without title. [3] *oportet* written over the line, MS. [4] *Hobb*: MS., but other documents give the name at full length.

ex altera parte, testatur, quod prefati Cancellarius, procuratores, et regentes concesserunt et ad firmam tradiderunt dicto domino Ricardo Ruthyn unam aulam, sive unum tenementum, vulgariter dictum 'William' Hall cum gardino adjacente, in parochia S. Johannis prope collegium Mertonis, situatam, inter collegium Universitatis ex parte **Fol. 172 a.** Australi et aulam Boemii ex parte boreali[1]; promittentes, quod idem dominus, Ricardus Ruthyn, habebit et tenebit predictam aulam, sive predictum tenementum, cum suis pertinentiis ad spatium viginti quatuor annorum a confectione hujus indenture; reddendo annuatim duos solidos, ad duos anni terminos, si petantur; viz. in festo S. Michaelis archangeli duodecim denarios, et in festo annunciationis Beate Marie duodecim denarios: et quod dictus dominus, Ricardus Ruthyn, tenebitur ad reparationem predicte aule, sive tenementi, per predictum spatium annorum; et quod expendet in reparationem predicte aule, ante finem biennii jam proxime sequentis, tres libras legalis monete Anglie, ad omne minus: et aulam sic reparatam cum suis pertinentiis manutenebit, reparabit, usque ad finem et terminum dictorum viginti quatuor annorum, et sic reparatam relinquet in fine sive termino annorum predictorum. Et si contingat ipsum annalem redditum duorum solidorum esse a retro, vel in parte vel in toto, per unam quindenam, si petatur, et predictas conditiones circa reparationes non servari, quod tunc licebit Cancellario, procuratoribus et regentibus predictis, distringere, et districtiones sic captas abducere, et penes se habere quousque idem redditus cum suis arreragiis plenarie persolvatur. Et nos, Cancellarius, procuratores et regentes antedicti, predictam aulam et tenementum warantisabimus contra omnes gentes, pro tempore quo dictus dominus, Ricardus Ruthyn, in eadem aula et tenemento perstiterit. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum Universitatis commune huic indenture est appensum. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis et die mensis predictis.*

445.

Duci Gaspari, duci Bedfordie.

We doubt whether our care and trouble, in rebuilding S. Mary's Church in this University, have reached the ears of one so exalted as you are; yet, knowing that in so doing we appeal to one always ready to succour the needy, we venture to address you, and beg that you will give us some timber from your neighbouring forest, to construct the roof of the church. The building is otherwise so far advanced that this only seems lacking to its completion.

[1] *boriali* MS.

1490. Etsi dubitamus an ad auditum tante majestatis pervenerit, dux illustrissime, quanta nos, tue dominationis semper amantissimos, sollicitudo et cura aliquamdiu tenuit pro confectione ecclesie Beate Marie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi; tamen non veriti sumus nostras[1] litteras ad tantam celsitudinem perscripsisse, quum ad ejusmodi virum scribantur, qui inopia saltem laborantibus ex sua liberalitate atque humanitate semper paratus atque humanissimus succurrere consuevit. Eo equidem tandem ducta est ecclesia Beate Marie in nostra Universitate in lapideis muris et fenestris, ut nihil magis quam coöperimentum, quod ex lignis conficietur, postulare atque expectare videatur. Quare si tua prestantissima dominatio ligna aliqua exscindenda mandarit, ex his tuis silvis que non procul a nostra Universitate absunt, quo facilius atque ornatius hoc nostrum ecclesiasticum edificium conficiatur, id efficies, quo majus vix ullus ex his prestantissimis dominis, qui nostre reipublice miseruerint, antea aliquando effecerit. Et diu[2] . . . . .

446.

Ricardo Hyll.

By the report of some, who have come hither from London, we have heard of your benevolent intentions towards us. We heartily thank you and wish we could repay your kindness. To a mother involved in many cares and troubles every act of kindness on the part of a good son is justly most acceptable. May you never regret your liberality.

1490. Audivimus jampridem ex his viris, qui sese a civitate Londoniarum in Universitatem Oxoniensem contulere—fuerunt certe fide digni—quanta tibi nobis nostreque reipublice benefaciendi cura atque cogitatio esset. Habemus tibi immortales gratias, dilectissime confrater: utinam eas tibi referre possemus! Nihil poterit diligentissimus filius in matrem multis curis et anxietatibus affectam conferre, quod non illi atque suis filiis gratissimum merito censeri debeat. Liberalissimi atque amantissimi confratris officium suscepisti: Speramus nunquam fore ut tui in nos beneficii, cujuscunque generis id erit, jure penitere possit. Vale.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1491. Noverint universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russel, Lincolniensem episcopum, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et Johannem Wethers et Thomam Hobbys, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de

[1] *ad nostras* MS. [2] The remainder is lacking in the MS.

Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum bone et legalis monete Anglie; in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum septimo, die mensis Novembris vicesimo sexto.*

447.

By the King.

Fol. 172 b.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd we grete you wele; And forasmoche as we be enformed that it hath plesyd god to call from this transitory life and vale of misery unto hys grete and infinite mercy oon Richard Sparke, late yeman Bedell of divinite within our universite there; and for an other to succed there in the seyd Rome ye shall hastyly procede unto an Eleccion, accordyng to the laudable ordinance and constitucions of the same; We, desyryng the promocion & furtherance of our welbelovyd Edward Mortymer, aswell for the good and commendable Reporte made unto us of his Sadnesse, Wisdom and good Disposicion, as in that he is servant unto our trusty and welbelovyd Clerk and Chapellain Master Richard Mayhew, for the goode & acceptable service that he in sundry wises hath doon unto us to oure grete pleaser; we, [have[1]] in the singler favoure of our good grace, pray you hartely that ye wyll the sayd Edward, yn your sayd Eleccion to the sayd office, before al other especially recommendyd and preferryd, wt almaner rygt and dutyes thereunto belongyng; wheren, as it is shewyd unto us, ye shall not only provyd you of an abyll and discrete personne to do unto you convenient service in the sayd occupacion, but also ministre unto us full good pleaser. *Yeven under our sygnet at our paloys of Westmynster, the vit day of ffebruary.* **1491.**

448.

By the Kyng.

RYGT reverent fader in god, trusty & welbelovyd, and trusty belovyd, we grete you well: And forasmoche as we be enformyd that Thomas Hert, late gentilman Bedyll of the ffaculte of lawes within oure Universite of Oxonforde, is passyd oute of this transitory lyfe, **1491.**

[1] The word *have* is clearly misplaced; it should come in two lines below, *have before all other*, &c.

so that the same Rome ys now falln yn to your disposicion; We therfore, remembryng the sadd demeanyng and good habilite that oure ryȝt welbelovyd Roberd Caxton is reputed to be of, for the exercise therof of the sayd office, with other his manyfolde deserts towards us, desyre and pray you in oure ryȝt affectuous wise, that ye wyll have hym unto the sayd Rome before alle other especially recommended and preferred, with almaner wages prouffits and commoditis therunto belongyng; and the raþer at the contemplacion of thes oure lettres, wherin ye shall minister unto us full good & singler pleaser, and cause us the more favorably to remember you yn any your resonable pursuytys unto us hereafter. *Yeven under oure signet at oure maner of Eltham, the last day of December.*

449.

Per episcopum Lincolniensem[1].

1491. PLEASE yt you to practyse the spede of the Kyngs plesure, now directyd unto you by hys letters, yn the most convenient wyse that ye can; provydyng therwith for the goode pease and suerte of Edmunde Hampedene esquyer; so as ther be no cause of more trobyll hereaftyr betwene partyes, and wythout whych must else[2] ensue, if he shall nede to stond at hys defens and in werre. for godds sake persuade all our scolers to remembyr the tyme and condycion of this dayes that we be yn, & the styll syttyng of the parlement house, til the direccion of this mater be well perceyvyd. Ye may think for a certayn *quod ibi laici clericis opido sunt infesti.* I know more than yt ys expedient to wryte; and, yf good frends had not beene, the Kings letters had not be so easy as thei be, to remyt the correccion of things doone utwards to youre selffs. Thei that be in the danger shall, wt theire humble submission at home, sauff themm self and the Universite, if thei wylle. I pray you that soo they may doo, and love and gete love of alle oure neybours. As ye fynde thies maters disposid of, I pray you that I may have redy word yn alle goodely haste. *ffrom London, the vith day of ffebry.*

450.

Fol. 173 a.

Domino Regi[3].

We are exceedingly sorry that any one of our members, whether with reason or not, should have done anything to displease your highness, for we are ourselves blameless, and have done our best to restrain others, both

[1] This address is written on the margin, but by a contemporary hand, or nearly so. [2] *ele* MS. [3] No date to this letter.

by threatening to exert our own authority and inculcating obedience to your majesty. The reported apprehension of an attempt to burn your palace and town is a fiction of our enemies; such an attempt would be immediately crushed by our efforts. We are therefore as much astonished as grieved that any charge is laid against us, and that a greater fault than they have committed is imputed to the delinquents. The malice of our enemies is at the bottom of the matter. We have punished the ring-leaders of the riot, and now we fear worse consequences in the future from the insolence of our adversaries when they see our side punished. We entreat you therefore to protect us from any similar dangers to our scholars in future. The bishop of Lincoln will furnish you any further particulars you may require.

VEHEMENTER dolemus, illustrissime princeps, in maximis certe rei- 1491.
publice negotiis quippiam, seu data seu accepta occasione, fecisse nostros quod vestram celsitudinem vel minima ex parte reddat infensam, presertim nobis; qui non modo nihil ipsi fecimus, quod jure quemquam offendat, verum etiam aliorum, quibus forte non eadem sententia fuit, conatus pro nostra parte compressimus: nec id magis nostre auctoritatis terrore quam vestre majestatis reverentia. Nam, quod ad exaggerandam criminis atrocitatem confinxerunt adversarii, —formidari incendium palatii atque oppidi vestri, turbari questores vestros—tantum abest a vero ut earum ipsarum rerum in primis habita ratio et nostrorum impetus fregerit et adversariis saluti fuerit. Hec quum ita sint, non minus miramur quam dolemus, illustrissime princeps, adversarios nostros apud vestram presertim celsitudinem voluisse[1] vel nobis ullam, qui nihil peccavimus, vel his majorem, qui quoquo modo peccaverint, culpam imputare; nisi forte diffidentes cause sue in tantis nimirum injuriis atque contumeliis, quibus nostros et cotidie afficiunt et, ut videmus, afficient, falsa pro veris confingere cogantur. Nos tamen, ut morem majestati vestre geramus, in auctores illius perturbationis animadvertimus; quanquam satis explorata sit nobis nonnullorum innocentia, ex iis quorum ad nos delata sunt nomina. In quo cum adversariorum valde coarguenda levitas est, tum multo magis posthac pertimescenda temeritas, ne, dum ex eorum sententia luant nostri penas, ipsi licencius insolescant, equitate nostra simul atque patientia ad majorem perniciem abutentes. Cui malo ut tempestive prospiciat clementiam vestram mirum in modum oramus atque obsecramus; simulque illud ut velit, exemplo Christianissimorum principum, hoc vestrum amplissimum litterarum domicilium capessere atque tueri. Hoc pacto speramus fore ut vestre Universitatis scolas-

[1] *noluisse* MS.

ticos minus infestare levissimi homines audeant. Verum de his omnibus quemadmodum se habeant vestram majestatem plenius docebit reverendus in Christo pater, dominus Lincolniensis episcopus, Cancellarius noster, ut cui rem omnem ab initio particulatim exposuimus. Feliciter vivat ac valeat vestra serenissima majestas, illustrissime princeps et rex metuendissime.

451.

Archiepiscopo Cantuariensi.

But for your patronage and protection we could not stand against the injuries and calumnies of our unscrupulous foes, and to you we owe it that their power for mischief is not as great as their will. What limit otherwise would there be to their malice, whom nothing less than impunity in crime and falsehood in accusation will satisfy? Our one and great comfort in our grievous trouble is that we are permitted to rely upon your defence, and though we are unable to appreciate at its true value the greatness of the obligation, we will omit no opportunity of showing our respect and obedience to one to whom we owe so much; and, farther, only beg you of your wisdom to stamp out the flames forthwith, that a more serious conflagration may not ensue.

1491. Non plane pares essemus, reverendissime archipresul, sustinendis perditissimorum hominum vel injuriis quibus innocentes lacessimur, vel calumniis quibus repugnantes urgemur, nisi vel te imprimis patronum ac propugnatorem haberemus; quippe cujus opera effectum est ut petulantes adversarii si non minus velint ac possint, at certe minus possint quam velint. Quid enim nollent si possent, qui non satis habent lacessere[1] nisi impune lacessant, aut criminari nisi falso criminentur? Hoc igitur unum nobis relictum est potissimum in hac misera condicione solatium, ut liceat tuo patrocinio contra levissimorum hominum nefarios conatus frui. Quare non satis estimare possumus quantum paternitati tue debeamus; hoc certum habentes, quantumvis id fuerit, minus ac levius tuis amplissimis meritis fore. Nihil tamen pretermittemus vel officii vel obsequii, quo tam benemeritam de nobis tuam vicissim demereamur prestantiam: unum illud preterea obsecrantes, ut causa diligenter expensa velis pro tua prudentia quamprimum excitatam flammam restinguere, ne, dum serpat lacius, id quod valde metuimus, periculosius existat incendium. Et optime valeat tua reverendissima paternitas.

[1] *ut lacessere* MS.

452[1].

Though our lot is cast in days when men who ought to help us are our enemies, we have never been so forsaken as to be destitute of comfort. Thus, as soon as you were informed of the wrongs done us, your defence was prompt and effectual. Greater service could not be rendered than you have rendered us, and we are grateful to you as our preserver. We have in every point executed the King's commands, and we hope that after recent events our adversaries will be a little less violent.

TAMETSI his temporibus nascimur in quibus perditissimos hominum **1491.**
mores experiri coacti sumus, eorum profecto qui nos juvare pocius quam injuriis lacessere debuissent, tamen quo merito gauderemus semper habemus, nusquam nos in tam afflicta fortuna esse constitutos ut nullus[2] locus consolationi nobis relinqueretur. Ubi vero ad tuam prestantissimam paternitatem perlatum esset quantis nos injuriis nostri adversarii afficerent, sic nostros conservasti, ut qui melius atque diligencius facile experiri non posset. Tanta enim sunt tue reverendissime paternitatis in hac nostre reipublice conservatione officia, ut ne his majora quidem vel abs te prestari vel a nobis postulari queant. Quantum igitur ipsa respublica tibi debeat ipsi nos cognoscimus. Tantas nos tibi gratias pro his debere profitemur, dignissime pater, quantas Oxoniensis reipublice conservatori nobis habere oporteat. **Fol 173 b.**
Nihil a regia majestate nobis injunctum fuerat quod cum omni studio non perfecimus. Utinam effectum esset ut nostri adversarii vestra decreta vigilantius advertentes paululum moderatiores in nostros essent. Quid illi in nostros indies fecerint iste venerabilis confrater noster apud tuam reverendam paternitatem nostris verbis declarabit.

453.

To the King.

Knowing it to be your desire that our students should pursue their work in peace, in our own interests we shall leave no means untried to secure that object, as your letter suggests. There is, however, one subject on which we think it necessary, though with very great pain, to write to you. It is impossible for a member of the University to go to any place in the neighbourhood without being assaulted by the partisans of E. Hampden; we entreat your highness, therefore, to protect us, and hear

[1] No address or date to this letter, but probably to the Bishop of Lincoln.
[2] *ullus* MS.

from your learned physician, our brother, an account of the perils to which our members are daily exposed.

1491. Cum id plurimum cupiat vestra serenissima majestas, illustrissime princeps, ut studentes in vestra Universitate Oxoniensi studiis litterarum quiete operam darent, quam rem celsitudini tante non mediocriter morem gessisse ex vestris proximis satis intelleximus litteris, nostra interesse prospicimus omni cum ratione ac conatu investigare quo id effici possit. Nulla etenim fuere mandata in ipsis vestris litteris de conservanda pace, que non posthac cum omni studio ad extremas nostras vires curabimus. Unum tamen est, de quo non sine vehementi dolore ad tantam celsitudinem scribendum esse censuimus: vix quemquam ex nostris scolasticis viris in aliqua loca vestre Universitati vicina proficisci posse, in quem fautores E. Hampden non faciunt impetum; modo cum de studentium numero esse cognorint. Rogamus igitur, atque majorem in modum vestram celsitudinem obsecramus, ut hec mala, ad pacem in vestra Universitate studentium, propellere velit. In quod periculum nostri viri scolastici quotidie incidant, iste confrater noster, artis medicine accuratissimus interpres, vestram celsitudinem certiorem reddet. Feliciter vivat ac valeat, &c.

454.

Domino Wareham.

Your diligence and constant care for our interests are not forgotten, and there is no one for whom we feel more affection. We wish it were in our power to do as much for you, but you may be sure there is no one among us whose services you may not command.

1491. In efficiunt tua in nos merita, vir doctissime, ut quem te uno magis diligamus facile reperiamus[1] neminem. Non possumus non frequenter recordari quantas assiduitates, quantos labores, quantas denique curas in nostrorum negociorum expedicione superioribus diebus in te susceperas. Hec quotiens nobis in mentem veniunt—veniunt profecto sepissime—nos tibi devinctos esse semper fateamur oportet. Utinam haberemus in quo parem tibi humanitatem ostenderemus! Volumus tibi persuadeas, atque in muneris loco[2] pro hac vice reponas, nullos esse ex nostris quibus, quum voles, in omnibus tuis negociis mandare non possis. Atque optime valeat tua reverencia, litteratissime doctor.

[1] *reperiamus* repeated in MS. [2] *lo*: ib.

455.

Per Regem.

Your letter has given me great satisfaction, nay pleasure, for it clearly shows you to be peaceably disposed, and I foresee from this a great advantage to yourselves, and at the same time that I shall find you, as I always have done, obedient subjects in future. Continue, therefore, in this mind, and it shall be well with you: Peace and quiet are essential to virtue and learning; endeavour, then, to secure them, for the more virtue and learning flourish in our University the greater is our reputation, the greater our wealth and prosperity. I have sent for E. Hampden and straitly charged him that neither he, nor others by his order, henceforth dare to attack any member of your society; and I think, unless you fail in your duty, you will be able to live in peace with each other for the future.

INTELLEXIMUS ex litteris vestris, quas nuper accepimus, quantopere 1492.
pacis amplectende sitis cupidi, et ad ipsam conservandam proni ac propensi: que res sane non modo grata est nobis verum etiam vehementer jucunda, tum quod vel ex hoc bene prospicimus non mediocrem fructum vobis[1] ipsis accessurum, tum etiam quod nostri, ut semper putavimus, obedientissimos esse ac fore vos palam ostenditis. Pergite igitur in hac sentencia et proposito, ut et commodis vestris consulatis et gratiam nostram magis et magis valeatis promereri. Nihil autem scholastice discipline magis congruere magisve conducere posse putamus, quam pacem et tranquillam quietem, que procul dubio virtutis et studiorum precipua quedam sunt fomenta. His igitur incumbite, ut et vobis prodesse et nobis placere possitis. Quanto sane magis elucescet et clarebit virtute ac doctrina ista nostra academia, tanto sane nos illustriores ditioresque et feliciores arbitrabimur; atque idcirco ad vos ornandos gratiis et favoribus nostris promptiores liberalioresque invenietis. Ceterum, quoniam significastis nobis a sequacibus Edmundi Hampden, quotiens detur facultas, in scholares nostros impetus fieri, id nos graviter ferentes, utpote quod vestra consilia de pace tuenda turbarentur, vocari ipsum Edmundum ad nos jussimus, atque eum coram monuimus, et obstricte quidem, ne in posterum presumat amplius, seu per se seu per suos complices, quempiam vestrum aut ordinis vestri lacessere vel impetere: putamusque fore ut, nisi a vobis defuerit, inter vos et illum pax libero pede de cetero sit processura, sicuti harum nuncius lacius vobis declarabit. *Ex regia nostra Grene-*

[1] *nobis* MS.

wici, die quinto Aprilis, [anno Domini] millesimo[1] *quadringentesimo nonagesimo secundo.*

Fol. 174 a.

Acquittance of Oseney Abbey.

1491. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et Johannem Wethers et Thomam Hobbys, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam solutione cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: Dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, quartodecimo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum septimo.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1491. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Lincolniensem episcopum et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et Joannem Wethers et Thomam Hobbys, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutam cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: Dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregationis domo, quarto decimo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum septimo.*

Citation of Master Hugh Kyrkal.

1491. CANCELLARIUS Universitatis Oxoniensis, necnon ejusdem procuratores cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem, magistro Hugoni Kyrkal salutem. Tenore presentium nos citamus te, primo, secundo et tercio, ac peremptorie mandamus quod coram nobis presentialiter compareas in domo congregationis, sive in ecclesia Beate Marie Virginis Oxonie, intra viginti dies post inicium termini Pasche; ad faciendum compotum et ratiocinium ciste de Burnell; ad quod vinculo juramenti te noveris astrictum. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, sub sigillo nostro communi quartodecimo die mensis Aprilis.*

[1] *anno Domini* omitted in MS. If the date is correct this epistle is misplaced in the MS., but the date looks as if added by a different hand. Moreover, a later hand adds 'H. S^l^. (i.e. septimi) septimo,' which would be 1491.

Appointment of a carrier to the North of England.

Whereas the students, particularly those from the northern parts of the kingdom, have long suffered great loss, from lack of carriers to convey their exhibition-money and other effects to Oxford, and to transact business for them at their homes on returning to the north; we have thought it will be an advantage to apply a remedy to this grievance. Having, therefore, confidence in the diligence and fidelity of John Bayly, who declares that he is willing to undertake the office, we have granted him full licence to act as such carrier; so long as he shall discharge the duties thereof with zeal, honesty, and fidelity; and, when he has sufficient goods for a load, make one journey to and fro every term.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, &c. Postquam apud nos frequenter cogitassemus paucos vel nullos per aliquot tempora fuisse vectores, qui studentium in nostra Universitate—eorum maxime qui sunt atque fuerunt ex partibus aquilonaribus—vel pecunias vel res alias quascumque eorum usui necessarias ab illis partibus aquilonaribus ad nostram Universitatem Oxoniensem deferrent, atque item in ipsas partes revertentes eorumdem studentium negocia diligenter tractarent; ad magnum malum eorum omnium, quorum exhibitiones atque alie res ab illis aquilonaribus partibus ad nostram Universitatem Oxoniensem apportarentur; nostra interesse existimavimus huic inquietationi ejusmodi studentium obviare, eosdemque studentes quietiores reddere. Sperantes igitur de diligentia et fidelitate Johannis Bayly, qui hoc vehendi onus, ab ipsis aquilonaribus partibus et rursum ad ipsas partes aquilonares, in se suscipere velle affirmat, eidem Johanni plenam vehendi potestatem concessimus, quamdiu prefatus Johannes, habita rerum vehendarum sufficientia, antiquam vectorum consuetudinem semel in termino veniendi Oxoniam servaverit, atque fideliter et diligenter officium illud vehendi absque omni fraude et dolo per se exercuerit. In quorum omnium, &c. *Datum Oxonie, in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum octavo, die vero mensis Octobris vicesimo septimo.* 1492.

Acquittances of Osney and Eynsham Abbeys. Fol. 174 b.

Noverint universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Davys, Wylhelmum Lampton, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, ab Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro annua pensione predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debita: De quibus quidem 1492.

fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi octavo, die mensis Decembris decimo.*

1492. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Davys, Wylhelmum Lambton, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie; in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem fatemur[1] nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi octavo, undecimo die mensis Decembris.*

1492. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Johannem Davys et magistrum Wylhelmum Lambton, procuratores Universitatis, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum: De quibus fatemur nos esse solutos, et eos inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, undevicesimo die Maii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum octavo.*

1493. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Jolyff et Ricardum Barnyngham, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus quidem sedecim solidis octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi nono, die mensis Decembris quinto.*

1493. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Johannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Johannem Jolyff et Ricardum Barnynham, ejusdem procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Oseney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, bone et legalis monete Anglie; pro annua pensione predicte Universitati per prefatum Abbatem

[1] *fatemur* omitted in MS.

et conventum debita: De quibus quidem viginti sex solidis octo denariis fatemur nos esse solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi nono, die mensis Decembris quinto.*

456.

Doctori Willelmo Sutton.

You cannot, we think, but know how great have been our toil and anxiety in rebuilding our church, and thereby adding not a little to the beauty of our University and to the comfort of those who shall graduate here in time to come. You know how old the building was, and how the Masters and Scholars were often deluged with rain, when attending in the church in stormy weather. We have rebuilt the walls and roofed the church anew; we therefore invite you, and other our benefactors, to assist us in completing that which still remains to be done.

PUTAMUS tuam prestantiam non esse nesciam, litteratissime sacrarum **1493.**
litterarum professor, quantus nos labor, quanta etiam cura nove ecclesie in nostra Universitate Oxoniensi construende aliquamdiu tenuit, ad non mediocrem Universitatis decorem tutioremque ingressum et moram virorum scholasticorum, qui solennes actus in eadem ecclesia futuris temporibus exercebunt. Non putamus posse preterire te, vir humanissime, quanta vetustate ecclesia Beate Marie afficiebatur, quantis preterea pluviarum infusionibus magistri ceterique studentes, in actibus temporibus procellarum in eadem ecclesia celebratis, sepenumero offendebantur. Hoc igitur vetustissimo tecto per nos diruto, muros et tectum novum ereximus. Restat ergo, quandoquidem hoc nostrum edificium non est plene ex omni parte constructum, ut tu, inter ceteros nostre Universitatis benefactores, nostris precibus pulsandus rogandusque sis, ut aliquid in nos conferas—pecunie nostre illius operis magnitudine **Fol. 175 a.**
absumpte sunt—quod ad hujus sacre edis celerem et perfectum constructionem conducere posse judicabis: quod ut velis te vehementer etiam atque etiam rogamus.

457.

Magistro Willelmo Wareham.

Your good offices have never been wanting, as we have found by numerous kindnesses received at your hands; greater, indeed, than we could reasonably expect. Yet there is one thing which the whole University earnestly begs you to undertake for them. We speak of the money

given for the founding of the Feen Chest, at present lying in the hands of a certain religious of Waltham Abbey. Your influence with him is very great, and there is nothing we should more gladly owe to your friendly exertions than the prompt payment of this debt.

1493. Etsi tua officia atque studia in Oxoniensem rempublicam nunquam defuere, vir humanissime, quod non ex paucis abs te humanissime factis aperte satis intelleximus—frequentissimeque profecto facta ejusmodi fuere ut ne majora quidem vel abs te prestari vel a nobis juste atque honeste expectari debeant—unum tamen adhuc est, in quo te ad subeundos labores universus cetus Oxoniensis iterum atque iterum rogatum habet. Loquimur de ipsis pecuniis Universitati donatis ad fundationem ciste de Feen, remanentibus, uti nobis signatum est, in manibus religiosi cujusdam viri conventus de Walteham; apud quem tua auctoritas plurimum atque omnino potest. Aliud non est quod magis pro nostra amicitia a te jam expectemus, quam ut intelligamus harum pecuniarum solutionem, ut quamprimum nobis reddantur, per te esse acceleratam. Id si feceris, rem non minus Oxoniensi cetui optatam atque Universitati apprime utilem tete fecisse arbitrabimur, quod ut facias te etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus. Et optime valeat tua prestantia, &c.

458.

By the Kyngs moder.

1493. Trusty and right welbeloved, we grete you wele; and where as oure ful welbeloved master Maurice Westebury hath lately commensed within the Universite there, by reason whereof he, accordyng to the auncient and laudable custumes and statuts of the same, aught to be resident there duryng oon hole yere next and immediatly folowyng his saide commensement; how be it we desire and hartily pray you —in asmoch as we have ordeinied the saide master Maurice to applie hym to the erudition & doctrine of certayn yong gentilmen at our findyng for a season—that ye, at this oure instaunte, wille dispense with him in that behalve, any statute or ordinaunce had among you to the contrary not withstanding. And ye thus doing shal have us youre good lady in any thing reasonable that ye shal desire of us, concernyng the weal of you or the saide Universite hereafter. *Yeven undre oure signet at the castel of Windesore, the xii day of January.* Margaret.

459[1].

There is no one of those educated among us, to whom we are more deeply indebted than to you. You constantly received while present with us the well earned expressions of our gratitude, which we repeat now in your absence. We entreat you to continue your good offices towards us, and request you to do us the favour of acting as our attorney in receiving from Dr. Wareham the sum of sixty pounds for the Feen Chest, and giving him a written discharge for the same.

EJUSMODI est tuum studium ad Oxoniensem rempublicam conservandam ad eandemque augendam quotidie cura, litteratissime doctor, ut cui atque tibi majora debeamus ex viris apud nos educatis penitus reperiamus neminem. A nobis igitur, preter cotidianas illas gratiarum actiones, quas in te presentem, neque sine maximis tuis in nos meritis, frequenter habuimus, etiam in te jam absentem gratias, easque immortales, videmus reddi oportere. Faciat atque progrediatur tua reverentia quo ceperit, ad Oxoniensem rempublicam perpetuo conservandam, ad perpetuam tui nominis memoriam perpetuamque decorem. Volumus atque etiam majorem in modum rogamus ut, tanquam noster attornatus, ad tuas manus recipere digneris sexaginta libras a venerabili viro domino doctore Wareham, quas paratas habet ad fundationem ciste de Feen; reddendo eidem[2] venerabili doctori aliquod scriptum tua manu quod eum de tanta pecuniarum summa acquietabit. Nihil hac re jam nobis optatius; quod ut facias te etiam atque etiam rogatum habemus. Et diu prospere valeat tua reverentia, dignissime doctor. *Oxonie a nostre congregationis domo, quinto Idus Marcias.* 1493.

The Licence of John Bayly [to be carrier to the University] transferred to William Bayly.

ANNO Domini millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo tercio concessa est illa libertas vehendi a partibus aquilonaribus Oxoniam Willelmo Bayly, que vehendi libertas prius concessa erat Joanni Bayly, ut patet in hoc registro. *Acta sunt hec in domo congregationis, anno Domini predicto die mensis Marcii quintodecimo.* 1493.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey. Fol. 175 b.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Joannem Jolyffe et magistrum Ricardum Barnigham, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis 1493.

[1] No title or address. [2] *eadem* MS.

presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Enysham, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum: De quibus fatemur nos esse solutos, et eos inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro signatas. *Data in nostre congregationis domo, octavo decimo die mensis Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi post conquestum nono.*

460[1].

To Sir Reginald Bray.

1493. Ryȝth honorable sir, we commend us to yow as enterly and as lovyngly as may be thowȝthe; and for as moche hyt ys soo þt pryvylegyd personys havyng grete lybertees can nott att all tymys pesybylly enjoy there lybertees, wtowte favorabyll ayde of nobyll menys assistence; and to þis ende also noble princys off ther most graciose favowr hathe gevyn to generall Unyversytees of scolars franches and libertees, for þt they shulde be wtowte trobull and vexacyon, by home Crystys feythe ys furderyd and encresyd; we therfore, consideryng þe noble fame off yowre grete wysdom and syngulare gudnesse, desyre and pray yow to accept the offyce off owre stewardchyppe off Oxfoord, wherto by owre hole assemblance ȝe ar electe. Yff hytt schall lyke yow thus to do att owre instante prayowre, we trust in godd hytt schall turne to yowre grete plesure and owre synglar profyte yn tyme to cum. We prayd and desyryd þt honorabyll man, master doctor Mayew, archedeacon off Oxford to be owre solycytor yn þis case; to home we trust ȝe wyll condescend at owre supplicacyon and prayowr. *Gewyn undyr owre comyn seale þe iiii day off June, yn owre congregacyon howce att Oxforde.*

461.

To Doctor June[2].

Your great interest both with the King and the highest in the land enables you to be our friend in need, and we hope you will exert in our behalf the influence which the weight and dignity of your character give you. Our Seneschall has departed this life, and we desire without delay to fill the vacant place, for the peace of our University greatly depends on the appointment of a suitable person. We ask you therefore to plead our cause, and induce Sir Reginald Bray to accept the office. We fear that he may refuse because we can offer little emolument, but our prayers only for his welfare.

[1] and [2] No title or address in MS.

PROBATISSIMO viro, sacrarum legum integerrimo professori, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque magistrorum regentium unanimis salutem in omnium Salute. Summam in te spem, celeberrime patrone, recte collocantes, qui in maximis gerendis rebus et apud metuendissimum principem et spectatissimos regni patronos integerrimus semper es exauditus, id a te vehementer postulamus rogamusque constanter, eum te nobis nostris in agendis causis diligentissimum actorem exhibeas, qualem maxima auctoritas et amplissima gravitas tua esse concedet. Significamus tibi, conjunctissime vir, strenuissimum militem dominum Gwylhelmum Stonare, qui potestatem apud nos secularem aliquot annos tenebat in senescallum Universitati prefectus, diem terminasse suum; dormitque, ut speramus, feliciter[1] in Domino. Que res cum nobis certissime denunciata est, ne tanto atque precipuo capite Universitas aliquamdiu vacaret, vehementer impulit [ut][2] novum huic officio successorem preficeremus, quod et preter moram factum est. Nos autem prestantissimo atque generosissimo militi domino Reginaldo Bray, qui magne potentie homo atque regio lateri conjunctissimus sit, qui demum nobis infestissimos —quorum hostilis contra nos insidiatio sepe plus satis exasperascit— verbo aut denique facto compescat, hoc officium novissimos dies unanimes contulimus. Veremur tamen non mediocriter hesitantes, cum nihil erga illum res lucri habeat, nobis autem et commodo et nostre reipublice perpetue, ut confidimus, tuitioni sit, an, quod offerimus, id oneris acceptabit. Tantum enim illi preces ad Deum pollicemur, quem magnis donare muneribus non sufficimus. Te igitur, amplissime vir, summopere hortamur instanterque rogamus, preclarum hominem illum, apud quem, ni fallimur, bene magnus es, fac ita suadeas collatum officium omnino non postponat[3]. Quam rem si voto precibusque nostris tua prestantia perfecerit, perpetuo tibi devincti et tui semper sumus: et tu[4] vive felix in Domino. Amen. 1493.

Testimonial letter for two Franciscans, foreigners. Fol. 176 a.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis presentes litteras inspecturis Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis cetusque magistrorum regencium in eadem unanimis salutem in omnium Salvatore. Justicie nobis et humanitati esse recte existimantes studiosorum hominum, eorum primum quos et morum venustate et scienciarum claritate fecundos esse perspicimus, nomen atque gloriam in lucem ubique afferre; vile utique palam judicantes scienciam, que res est non mediocriter preciosa, in latebris quasi mortuam obdormire; dilectis nobis in Christo 1494.

[1] *feokiciter* MS.; cf. ep. 468. [2] *ut* omitted in MS. [3] *posponat* MS.
[4] *utu* ib.

ordinis minorum professoribus, domino Alphoncio . . . .[1] atque domino Lupo de Goöes, quorum conversacionem annos atque annos semper integerrimam comperimus et scienciam plene sumus experti, unde magnas laudes non preter merita consecuti sunt, testamur ad sacre theologie gradum, qui bachulariatus est, perfectis doctissime omnibus, que eum ad gradum attinent, in dicta nostra Universitate Oxonie honorifice promoveri. Quibus revera optimis Francisci imitatoribus, citra suscepti gradus lapsa tempora non minus quam ante gradum, plurimos annos sciencia adaucta est, ut his ad doctoratus gradum in sacra theologia posthac promoveri liberrime concessimus licenciavimusque benevolentissime. Cupientes igitur hanc nostram commendacionem benemeritorum hominum atque eorumdem studii experienciam apud cunctos plus ponderis habituram esse, has litteras Universitatis nostre communi sigillo consignari fecimus. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno salutis millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo quarto, et mensis Junii die vicesimo quinto.*

462.

By the Knynge.

1494. Trusty and welbelovyd, we grete yow well; and yn as moche as þe ryȝthe reverent fadyr in god, owre trusty and ryȝthe welbelovyd þe byschoppe off Lyncolne, yowre Chancellare, hathe wrytyn dyverse tymys unto us, þt when so evyr wee wold desyre hym to surrendyr thoffice of the said Chanceller he wold be agreable therunto, and accomplisshe the same in deu fourme for oure pleasur and for his discharge in that behalve; we, hering nowe of late that ye propose to procede to your election for a new Chanceller in goodly hast, wol and desire you in youre affectuous wise that ye deferre that matier, unto suche season as we shall have written oure mynde un to the said Right Reverend fadre, and that we shall have eftsones his plain surrendre in due forme, as it apperteneth. It shall not be longe beforne ye shall clerely have oure entent in this caas. Wherfor that ye prorouge your said election as above unto the tyme ye shall therin have furthre knowlege from us, as oure truste is in yow. *Yeven undre oure signet at oure manoir of Wod Stoke the ix^th^ day of Octobre.*

[1] This name is illegible in MS.

463.

To the King.

We have received your letter, wherein your singular favour towards us plainly appears; for if, when the head fails, the members of the body suffer with it, what can be more important to our well-being than that our Chancellor should not be permitted to resign, until a suitable successor shall have been found? We are most desirous to execute your commands, and deeply grateful for your interest in our prosperity.

METUENDISSIMO invictissimoque principi nostro Henrico, Dei gratia regnorum Anglie et Francie regi potentissimo, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie cetusque magistrorum regencium in eadem unanimis, cum omni subjectione, salutem plurimam dicunt. Accepimus jampridem, invictissime princeps, litteras regie majestatis vestre; que quanta gracia quaque singulari racione eadem celsitudo vestra Oxoniensem cetum prosequatur apertissime ostenderunt. Nam si, ut aiunt, capite languescente membra reddantur invalida, quid preclarius quidve utilius in nostram rempublicam agi potuisset, non ante Cancellario cedendi potestatem facere—quod vestra auctoritate regia vestraque singulari et divina probitate curatum est—quam eidem de successore idoneo provideatur? Que res apud nostros ubi comperta est, illustrissimum scilicet regem racionem sue Universitatis tam preclaram habuisse, quo studio accendebamur non solum in executione ipsius regii mandati vestri—quod facere oportebat—verum etiam ut immortales gratias eidem serenitati regie habeamus, denique, ut tenemur, serenissime princeps, pro regie celsitudinis vestre felici prosperitate deprecemur! Felicissime et ad longa tempora valeat regalis majestas vestra. *Ex Oxonia, vestra Universitate, tercio Idus Octobris.* 1494.

464.

By the Kynge.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd we grete yow well, and have redde and undrestande youre writings of the Date of the xiiith day of this instant moneth, By the which we perceyve that ye emprinte well in youre myndes theffects of oure late lettres un to yow. Trougth it is, for the truste we have that encresse of cunnyng and vertue shall from tyme to tyme persever amongs yow, the rathre by oure means, we Doo, of suche oure entier favoure un to yow as we have to fewe othre, put to oure handis of helpe for some substancial, wise, vertuous persone **Fol. 176 b.** to be youre Chanceler. We considre well by youre said writings that 1494.

ye be dysposed to the same entent to the prouffit of yow all oure universite there; for the which we can yow oure Right especiall thanks; and for youre saide good dispositione, wherin we pray yow to contynewe, shall be soo goode gracious soveran Lorde unto you in all youre resonable suyts hereaftre, as ye shall have cause of reason to be content. And long it shall not be, god willing, be forne ye shall have knowlege of oure ffurthre plesur in that behalff. *Yeven undre oure signet at oure castell of Windesore, the xvii^th^ day off Octobre the xth yere of reigne.*

465.

Ad dominum Marchionem Dorsettie.

Nothing has ever given us greater pleasure than the receiving into the number of our scholars your noble and refined children. This is an honour we have long ardently desired, and sheds upon the University a lustre hitherto unknown. We see here a proof of your regard and confidence, for without these you would never have entrusted us with the education of those so dear to you. Feeling deeply our obligation, we shall ever pray for your prosperity, and will use all possible care and diligence that the children committed to our charge may grow up to be learned men.

1494. ILLUSTRISSIMO ac magnificentissimo domino, singulari domino nostro Marchioni Dorsettie, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie universusque regencium cetus in eadem sese commendatissimos faciunt. Nunquam majori gaudio affecti sumus, excellentissime domine, quam hac tempestate, cum elegantissimos juvenes imo generosissimos filios tuos, quod maximo affectu jam diu optavimus, in nostra Universitate scolasticos videamus. Quo fit ut merito excellentissime dominationi tue immortales gratias habeamus, que rempublicam nostram eo splendore tam egregie ornavit quali ante presentem diem ita decoratam non conspeximus. Quid enim prestancius quidve carius abs te agi potuit, serenissime domine, quam, quos intima dilectione prosequeris, egregios filios tuos dignissima stirpe natos optimis litteris imbuendos nobis tua sponte committeres. Sane hac in re experti sumus illustrissimam dominacionem tuam in Oxoniensem cetum maximum amorem gerere, atque id ipsum palam confitemur. Quoniam si nostram Universitatem insignissima dominacio tua singulariter non amasset, nunquam nobis dilectissimos filios optimis studiis instituendos commisisset. Sumus igitur illustrissime dominacioni tue perpetuo devincti, et Deum pro felici tua prosperitate semper deprecabimur. In filios autem tuos ornatissimos adolescentes nihil officii pretermittemus, sed ut in doctissimos viros evadant omni studio omnique diligencia curabimus. Fauste feliciterque valeat tua dominacio. *Ex Oxonia, die Octobris vicesimo.*

Acquittances of Osney and Eynsham Abbeys.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, Anthonium fyschare, Robertum Dale, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro annua pensione predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debita: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictumque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi decimo, et mensis Novembris vicesimo nono.* 1494.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Russell, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Anthonium fyschare, magistrum Robertum Dale, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxoniensi, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, in partem solucionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi decimo, et mensis Decembris die primo.* 1494.

466.

To Sir Reginald Bray.

All those, who have preceded you in the office you hold, must yield the palm to you; for which of them has left a memorial of his name to compare with your magnificent donation of forty marks for S. Mary's Church? It would seem that the Blessed Virgin, herself desiring a gift from you, moved you to this act of beneficence, as soon as you set foot in her Church. We doubt not but that she will repay you with interest; but we shall not on that account neglect the prayers, which it is our duty to offer, that God, who is the rewarder of all good works, will grant you His blessing. We will do as you bid us in providing oak timber. If you can get the resignation of our Chancellor, which is, we are informed, in the King's hands, forwarded to us, the effect will be most beneficial in tranquillizing the University.

MAGNIFICO et generosissimo militi, domino Reginaldo Bray, Oxoniensis Universitatis senescallo, Cancellarius ejusdem universusque regentium cetus salutem plurimam dicunt. Concedunt tibi, magnifice 1494.

miles, omnes, quotquot superioribus temporibus hunc tuum apud nos magistratum gessere, victi non tam egregia tua in nos voluntate quam liberalissima eademque munificentissima tuorum beneficiorum largitate. Qui enim tam preclaram nominis sui memoriam reliquerit Oxoniensibus, ut, clarissime miles, hoc tuo[1] in nos collato beneficio ad eternam tui memoriam reliquisti, cognovimus neminem. Recepimus namque quadraginta marcas abs tua egregia amplitudine donatas, quas ad perpetuam liberalitatis tue memoriam in Beate Virginis templo jussisti collocandas. Que plane Beata Virgo, quasi tuorum munerum cupida[2], quam cicius ejus templum ingressus es, hanc abs te liberalitatem extorsit: Que etsi tibi cum usura reddet dona graciora, nihil tamen officii nostri pretermittemus: confidimus enim ut Deus ipse, qui est omnium bonorum retributor, nostris precibus placatus sua te beatitudine donet. Quod jussit preterea in providendis quercinis arboribus tua gravitas faciemus. Sed aliud est in quo tua amplitudo nostre Universitati summe benefaciet; si cessionem reverendissimi domini, domini Cancellarii nostri, quam, ut aiunt, habet metuendissimus dominus noster rex, ad manus nostras impetrare velis. Nihil profecto gracius aut utilius ad tranquillitatem Universitatis nostre efficere poterit tua dignitas. Feliciterque vive, miles magnifice. *Ex Oxonia, sexto Idus Decembris.* Tue amplitudinis amantissimi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis et magistrorum regentium universus cetus.

467.

Fol. 177 a. **To the King.**

Master Edward Wylloughby delivered to us your commands, but only on the day appointed for the election of our Chancellor, and at the very hour when mass was being sung, and the Archbishop of Canterbury had been chosen by general consent. His great services to the University, and our belief that his selection would be acceptable to you have governed our choice. We pray you to accept with favour what we have done in obedience to our statutes and ordinances; and we shall ever pray for the increase of your prosperity.

1495. Christianissimo principi nostro Henrico, Dei gratia regnorum Anglie et Francie regi metuendissimo Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis omnisque regencium cetus in eadem, cum omni subjeccione et honore tam invictissimo principe digno, salutem plurimam in Eo dicunt qui est omnium una salus. Perferebat ad nos, invictissime princeps, litteras regie majestatis vestre magister Edwardus Wyllougby, fidelis-

[1] *suo* MS. [2] *cupido* ib.

simus significator mandati vestri, eo tamen die quo, exigentibus statutis nostris ad eleccionem Cancellarii ituri eramus, ea hora qua missa decantabatur, que extrema erat, cum jam ante maturo et accuratissimo consilio omniumque suffragiis publicis reverendissimus in Christo pater et dominus, dominus Cantuariensis archiepiscopus, Universitatis nostre Cancellarius, una hominum opinione esset designatus. Cujus reverendissimi summa beneficia patris in nostram rempublicam frequentissime prestita eo animosius Oxoniensem cetum ad hanc dignitatem ei conferendam incitarunt, quod vestre celsitudini rem gratissimam hujusque nobilissimi domini meritis non indignam sese facere arbitrabantur. Monebant enim ex nostris plerique, partim suo obsequio, quod reverende ejus paternitati debebatur, partim virtutibus et rebus a sua dominatione clarissime gestis; sed frequentiores plane vinculo sacramenti in digniori electione prestandi, cum nullo pacto nisi[1] sua sponte in ejusmodi electionibus suffragia prestare deberent. Deprecamur igitur celsitudinem vestram, princeps metuendissime, ut hanc Universitatis vestre dileccionem juxta ordinaciones et statuta nostra factam regalis majestas vestra equanimiter acceptare dignetur. Et nos, ut tenemur, pro augenda felici prosperitate vestra assidue Altissimum exorabimus. Ad longa tempora valeat serenitas vestra regia. *Ex Oxonia vestra, sextodecimo die mensis Januarii.*

468.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury.

For many years your powerful protection has alone enabled the University to stand against the assaults of its numerous enemies; and we have long regretted our inability to make any recompense, however humble, which might prove the sincerity of our gratitude. Now therefore that the office of Chancellor—the highest distinction we can confer, as a reward of virtue, rank, and learning—has become vacant, we beg you graciously to accept this humble offering of our loving hearts. It is the widow's mite, but it is all she has. We hope that, under your guidance, peace and quiet, learning and virtue will spring up and increase among us.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri et domino, domino Joanni, Dei gratia Cardinali et Cantuariensi archiepiscopo illustrissimo, tocius Anglie primati et patrono colendissimo, Cancellarius natus Universitatis Oxonie universusque regencium cetus in eadem sese cum omni subjectione et honore commissos faciunt. Cum jam multos annos, illustrissime domine, Universitas tua, vim et injuriam multorum perpessa, 1495.

[1] *in sua sponte* MS.

salva persistere non potuisset, nisi vestre dominacionis summo presidio niteretur, dolebamus plurimum nihil tale in nostra potestate constitutum esse, quo prestito, quamvis id ipsum longe vestris meritis inferius fuerit, nemo nos quasi accepti beneficii immemores rationabiliter arguat. Quo fit, cum cancellariatus nostri dignitas hoc tempore vacet, quod maximum munus est quo nobilissimi et litteratissimi domini summis pro virtutibus per Oxonienses donantur, ipsi celebrata electione vestram egregiam amplitudinem hoc honore dignissimam declararunt. Rogamus igitur humiliori modo quo possumus, cum omni cordis affectione, reverendissimam dominacionem vestram hoc munus paupercule vidue, quod de bono thesauro cordis procedit, benigniter acceptare: quod etsi pro tam nobilissimi domini beneficiis exiguum et leve sit, maximum tamen est quod per nos prestari possit. Speramus enim fore ut hoc illustri facto dominationis vestre pax et tranquillitas summa Oxoniensibus gignatur, omneque genus studii et virtutis magis ac magis in dies singulos augeatur. Semperque cum maxima felicitate[1] prosperetur dominacio vestra. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, mensis Januarii die septimo decimo.*

469.

By the Kyng.

1495. TRUSTY and welbelovyd we gret yow well, and dowbt nott but that ye have in y^r^ fresh remembraunce how, for the goode and singler favour we bere un to yow, and for a continewall rest to be a mongst yow, for the better to gyve yow to the study of vertue and of cunnyng, for the pleasure of Gode, meretts of yor selffs, and for the feyth and honour of thys our realme, we desiryde yow to forbere the eliting of your Chauncelere unto the tyme we hade the mynde of the ryght reverende fadre in gode the byshopp of Lyncolne, then your Chaunceler, as itt was seide, and now decessyde, whom gode asshoile. Wherfor, and to thentente ye shulde know we rest still in the same our favour unto yow on the on parte, and that therfore, and for the cawses above seide, yow shulde have such an honorable actyff and discrete person to be your hede and governour, as myght bothe overse yow, promote your cawses unto us, and defende yow in your ryghts and privileges, we recommende unto yow the ryght reverende fadres in gode our trusty and ryght welbelovyde the byshoppis of chestyr and Rochestyr, for yow to chese, sithens they both be of yow and browght upp a monge yow, the oon of them to be your chaunceler. Wherein, iff

[1] *feolicitate* MS.; cf. ep. 461.

ye so do as we trust assuerdly yow wyll nott fayle, yow shall, as in our opinion, wisely provyde for your selffs, and ministre unto us full **Fol. 177 b.** goode pleasure; by the whych ye shall gyve unto us occasion the rathyr to encrece unto yow owre seide favour in any your reasonable peticions for tyme to cume. And in caas ther be w^t^ yow ony statute contrari to this owre desire and advis, we pray yow to dispense therw^t^ in this behalf and to accomplysh that is for seide, as yow purpose to please us. *Yeven undre owre signet att our tower of London, the xi^th^ day of January the tenth yere of owre Reigne.*

470.

From the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I have received, by the hands of the bearers hereof, your earnest request that I would accept the office of Chancellor, and no one can more desire your honour and prosperity than myself; but my time is so fully occupied that I cannot give the personal attention requisite. I cannot, therefore, do all I would; but, lest I should seem to neglect my duty to our University, I will not refuse to undertake the office for a time. And it will be your duty to choose some one to act as my Commissary, who will have the necessary time at his disposal, and the due qualifications of character for the efficient discharge of his dulies, with your assistance.

LITTERATISSIMI viri, commendationem. Humanissimas litteras vestras, **1495.** septimo decimo hujus mensis in vestre congregacionis domo consignatas, attulerunt ad nos doctissimi viri presentium portitores, quibus equidem nos vehementer exorastis ut vestri Cancellariatus officium in nos suscipere non recusaremus. Revera istius Universitatis, nostre matris splendidissime, honori ac commodo inserviendi eo desiderio afficimur, quo majori quisquam esse non possit. Sed facultas profecto nostro non correspondet animo: ea namque laborum magnitudine crebro occupamur, ut ipsam, qua istud officium opus habet, industriam personaliter adhibere non valeamus, prout prefatis portitoribus apercius explicavimus. Istud tamen per vos nobis oblatum munus, pro quo vobis immensas agimus gratias, eo aliquamdiu perfuncturi minime refutare volemus, ne vestra in nos vota frustrentur, aut nostrum in istam Universitatem preclarissimam officium pretermittere videamur, qui non tantum ei prestare possumus quantum et debemus et cupimus. Vestrum itaque erit iterum operari quo egregium aliquem dominum, —qui, non ita prepeditus negotiorum varietate ut sumus, ipsius officii curis magis commode incumbere poterit—vobis conciliare valeatis. Affectamus enim non mediocriter eum virum, nostras in absentia vices

occupaturum, esse statuendum, qui ceteros in virtutum sanique regiminis ac doctrine semita dirigere possit: quod certe non dubitamus commissarium istic posse facilius efficere, cum vos presidiis consiliique salubribus et sanis exemplis, quibus vos ceteris prestare speramus, sibi adesse curaveritis. Hoc autem pacto nos tum istius alme Universitatis tum vestri honoris utilitatisque magis studiosos efficietis: Et bene valeatis. *Ex Lambethe vicesimo septimo Januarii, vester ad vota Joannes, Cardinalis Cantuariensis.*

471.

Ad dominum Cardinalem Cantuariensem.

We rejoice greatly that, in answer to our prayers, heaven has granted us in your person a protector and spiritual guide, than whom the University has never had one of more holy character. Such a pilot for our storm-tossed boat is no doubt given by the divine wisdom, for who but yourself could, like another Moses, guide our Israel with such uprightness, ability and strict legality? We are more blessed than our forefathers, in having as our Chancellor one who far surpasses any previous occupant of that office in moderation, dignity, industry and wisdom. In short, we may apply to you Cicero's praise of Pompey; and we are deeply thankful that we shall enjoy, in your presence among us, those excellent qualities of heart and mind, which by your reputation we know you to possess.

1495. Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Joanni, Dei gratia Cardinali et Cantuariensi dignissimo archiepiscopo, Cancellarius natus Universitatis Oxonie omneque collegium magistrorum regencium in eadem, cum omni subjectione, salutem plurimam dicunt. Gaudemus non mediocriter, excellentissime pater ac domine, diem istum, quem a superis immortalibus semper votis et precibus expectavimus, tandem nobis illucere; in quo Universitatem istam Oxonie, matrem nobis dilectissimam, tam celeberrimo patrono tamque divino pastore, quo nunquam sanctiori decorata fuerit, perornatam videamus. Celesti potius quam humano consilio plane factum esse putamus, ut is navi nostre multis jam diu procellis fatigate gubernator esse dignaretur, cui profecto in hoc genere gubernandi omnis ista provincia parem non elargitur. Quis enim hujus nostre Israel populum ea divina probitate, eo tam excelso ingenio, ea denique rectissima legis administracione regat ut Moyses ille, quem Deus in nobis legislatorem suscitavit? Quod si patres nostri felices recte censendi sunt, quibus magna auctoritate[1]

[1] A word unintelligible here in the MS.

viri suis temporibus in hac alma sede prefuere, beatiores sane filii judicandi sumus, quod tam colendissimus pater huic dignitati prefuerit; qui omnium patrum modestiam, dignitates, industriam, sapienciam, atque longe supra—sic nostra sentencia est—soli sibi usurpat. Sed ne longius tanti patroni laudibus immoremur, id ex omnibus unum in medium afferamus, quod crebro in laudem Pompeii Cicero afferre solet: '*Hunc audiebant antea, nunc presentem vident tanta temperancia, tanta mansuetudine, tanta humanitate, ut ii beatissimi esse videantur apud quos ille diutissime commoratur.*' Beati igitur sumus Oxonienses, et immortales vestre paternitati gratias habemus, quod apud nos optima gratia vestra summa auctoritate commorari non postposuit. Hoc demum paternitati vestre pro officio conari debemus, ut Deum pro felici prosperitate vestra deprecemur. Et ad longa tempora valeat sanctissima dominacio vestra.

472.

Doctoribus [Jane, Fitzjames, et Mayow][1].

The affectionate interest you have always manifested towards us leaves no room to doubt but that you will undertake a matter of much importance to us, and, we trust, credit to yourselves; we are sure, indeed, that you, who have aided us in things far more serious, will not suffer us to lack your help in this. We send you, by the bearer of these, the oath our Chancellor elect is bound—unless it be dispensed with—to take in congregation, and we beg that you will administer the same to him; having full powers from us to act in our behalf.

CLARISSIMIS doctoribus et viris probatissimis, doctori Jane, capelle regie decano egregio, doctori fytzhjamys, insignissimi principis nostri elemosinario benemerito, doctori Mayow, comitatus Oxoniensis archidiacono venerabili, Cancellarius natus Universitatis Oxonie omnisque regencium cetus in eadem sese commissos faciunt. Eam semper de vobis, ornatissimi viri, spem maximam concipimus, ut, quicquid nos a magnis auctoritatibus vestris expectaturos decrevimus, id facile consecuturos haud unquam dubitamus. Ipsa enim caritas vestra, qua nos et Universitatem istam nonnihil estis prosecuti, facit hac tempestate eam rem a vobis postulemus que magnum reipublice nostre fructum allatura est, vobis autem, ut confidimus, laudem et honorem. Et plane scimus nunquam, sapientissimi viri, committetis ut, qui magnis in rebus summo presidio semper Oxoniensibus fueritis, in minoribus gerendis negotiis eos spe frustrata optimis patrociniis vestris orbos 1495.

[1] The title in the MS. is *Doctoribus* only.

relinquatis. Agite igitur, viri ornatissimi, et quod petimus vos tandem facturos recipite, vehementer obsecramus. E multis quedam excerpta statuta juramentum reverendissimi domini, domini Cardinalis et Cantuariensis archiepiscopi, nuper nobis in Cancellarium electi, continencia, Fol. 178 a. quod in hac nostra congregacione prestare deberet—nisi aliunde cum sua reverendissima dominacione absolute dispensatum fuisset—per harum tabellionem, ornatissimi viri, ad vos transmittimus; rogamusque ut hoc juramentum sanctissime dominacioni ejus nostra vice deferatis. Ea enim estis auctoritate freti, ut, quicquid nobis potestatis ad deferendum ei juramentum usurpare licuerit, id vobis viris prudentissimis impresentiarum omne committi statuimus. Quam rem si pro votis nostris, viri optimi, subieritis, nos semper vobis profecto devinctos tenebitis. Et demum feliciter valeatis, celeberrimi viri. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, nono die Februarii.*

473.

Ad Universitatem per dominum Cardinalem.

Your very complimentary letter shows that my acceptance of the Chancellorship is in no slight degree agreeable to you. Be assured that I shall be truly glad if my services can be of use to our mother the University, though I do not disguise from myself the fact that my power is not so great as you seem to think, and that certainly I do not, nor could possibly, deserve such praise as you give me. I may say, however, that what I can I will do for the honour of Oxford, its dignity, and the general welfare of all its members. As to the commission deputed to administer to me the oath, I should have thought the oaths I took on graduation to be sufficient; but, one only of its members having presented himself—whereas the commission is issued to three jointly—it is void of effect. Dr. Mayow, and Doctor Smythe the bearer of these, will explain to you more fully my mind on this subject.

1495. Doctissimi viri, commendacionem. Ille quidem suavissime littere, quas ad nos die hujus mensis nono dederitis, ostendunt vos non mediocri gaudio perfundi, quod vestri cancellariatus officium exercere[1] pollicebamur; ac proinde laudibus[2] nos sublimare non vulgaribus, iisque longe supra merita, curastis, immortales nobis habendo gratias, &c. Sane immenso nobis gaudio fore cogitetis, si nobilissime nostre matris Oxonie negociis conducibiles esse valuerimus. Sed eam certe nostram parvitatem esse non diffitemur, ut non solum quantum sibi debemus haud profuturi sumus, verum nec tantis extolli vestris laudi-

[1] *excercere* MS. [2] *laudabilibus* ib.

bus nos digne promeritos esse, posseve, censemus. Unum tamen hoc vobis persuasum esse volumus, ut quicquid nostre vires pro istius Universitatis honore, dignitateque et communi salute efficere nos patiantur, id sumus haud dubie facturi. Quantum autem ad facultatem illam, quam vestris litteris doctissimis viris de acceptando nostro juramento—quanquam fides, per nos alias Universitati in assumptione graduum prestita, sufficere nobis videatur—contulistis, cum facultas ipsa fuerit eisdem conjunctim solomodo collata, restat ut, domino doctore[1] fytzjamys ipsorum uno istuc, sic enim putamus, aggresso, commissio ipsa frustretur. Nostram super inde mentem domino doctori Mayow declarare duximus, quam eundem vobis apercius expositurum existimamus. Cui, necnon domino doctori Smythe harum portitori, fidem adhibere dignemini. Et bene valeatis. *Ex Lamehythe, tertio decimo Februarii.* Vester ad vota Joannes, Cardinalis Cantuariensis.

474.

Ad dominum Cardinalem.

Our efforts to do whatever may be most agreeable to you are greater than can be well imagined; for we acknowledge that our obligation to you is beyond our power to repay. When, therefore, so insignificant a matter as the dispensing with your oath is desired of us, we should indeed be blind to our own interest, ungrateful to you, and unworthy of your condescension, if we could for a moment hesitate to grant it; and accordingly, by an unanimous vote of Congregation, you are declared to be absolutely free from any restrictions as to residence, or anything else contained in the oath in question: and we trust you will now undertake the office of Chancellor.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Joanni, Dei gratia Cardinali et Cantuariensi dignissimo archipresuli, Cancellarius natus Universitatis Oxoniensis omnisque regencium cetus in eadem cum omni subjectione salutem plurimam dicunt. Existimari facile non potest, sanctissime cardinalis et archipresul colendissime, quantum semper insudamus ut, quicquid reverende paternitati vestre et gratum et benevolentissimum esse putemus, id nos omni ingenio facturos pro amplissima paternitate vestra vehementer comprobamus. Tantum enim excellentissime dominacioni vestre nos debere profitemur, ut nullo officio celeberrime paternitati vestre satisfacere posse videamur. Quo fit, cum de nobis rem quasi infimam amplissima gravitas vestra jampridem postularit—alterum scilicet maxime dominacioni vestre 1495.

[1] *doctori* MS.

juramentum deferri non debere quam olim in assumptis gradibus in hac Universitate prestitum fuerit—plane nec nobis ipsis amici, nec vestre prestancie grati, tantaque auctoritate vestra digni unquam judicaremur, nisi ea res suum finem statim fuisset habitura. Omnis igitur senatus ille magistrorum regencium optimam gratiam vestram omni residencia solutam esse decrevit, omnique juramento liberatam, quod ad hujus nostri Cancellariatus dignitatem attinet, palam declaravit. Tandem igitur, optime pastor, nos in vestram tutelam sanctissima dominacio vestra suscipiat vehementer expectamus. Et ad longa tempora valeat sanctissima dominacio vestra. Amen. *Data in nostre congregacionis domo, septimo decimo die mensis Februarii.*

475.

To Doctor Lichfield.

When we call to mind—as we very often do—the imperishable blessings you have so abundantly conferred upon us; not only do we feel that our gratitude is due, but that our prayers should be offered continually for you. Your beneficence has so improved the University that you may be considered as one of our principal patrons and benefactors. For what could be a worthier or more blessed work than the rebuilding of the ruinous Church of S. Mary, chiefly accomplished at your expense? It is a deed which will never be forgotten on earth, and we can leave it to you to conceive what will be your reward in the land of the Saints; not doubting that the Blessed Virgin, for whom you have almost completed her place of rest, will recompense you an hundred fold. Complete then, we earnestly entreat you, the work so happily undertaken. Besides Doctor Fitzjames, to whom we owe very much, few, for many years, have assisted in the expenses of our public buildings; and without the assistance of those blessed with the grace of charity we are unable to finish the Church.

1495. SPECTATISSIMO viro clarissimoque legum professori, doctori Lychefeld, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie omneque collegium magistrorum regencium in eadem salutem plurimam dicunt. Quotiens immortalia beneficia tua quam accumulatissime nobis collata, vir prudentissime, commemoramus—commemoramus autem sepissime—non solum profecto summas tibi gratias recte habendas esse instituimus, sed et preces nostras, easque perpetuas, ad Deum pro te fundere sumopere sumus impulsi. Ita namque omnis respublica per te maximo fructu adaucta est, ut inter primos benefactores precipuosque patronos, ex quibus amplissima patrocinia sepe nobis emanarunt, te non injuria

connumerari velit. Quid enim beatius quidve omni laude dignius abs te, piissime archidiacone, agi potuisset, quam hoc templum Beate Virginis multa olim vetustate confractum, quam domum Dei ruinosam, quam laceram Sanctorum basilicam, maxima in parte tuis impensis iisque non mediocribus pulcherrime tandem extruere? Ea sane res est, que nunquam aut fame aut nominis tui dignitatem in terris deperire pacietur. Quod si ab hominibus in via tanta tibi merita jure debenda sunt, quantam in patria lucis retributionem consecutus fueris tuo lumini, vir sapientissime, commendamus: nec est plane quod dubitemus quin ex Beata Virgine, cujus tu talamum ornatissime reparasti atque ad finem prope perduxisti, centuplum accipias. Age igitur, vir colendissime, et iis tuis felicibus ceptis, te vehementer atque vehementissime oramus, beatum finem demum imponas. Pauci enim, preter clarissimum doctorem fythejamys—cui nos maxime debere profitemur—his nostris edificiis multa tempora sese adjutores prebuere. Expectamus igitur optimorum et beatissimorum hominum patrocinia, cum ex nobis ad tantam extruendam fabricam non sufficimus. Et tu tandem felicissimus vivas. Amen. *Datum &c. nono die mensis Marcii.* Tui et tue salutis amantissimi. Cancellarius.

476.

To the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury. Fol. 178 b.

Though we have on other occasions been worn out with adversity and trouble, never do we think our society has been struck by such a whirlwind of unmerited disaster as at the present time; and to such a state are we reduced, that, had we not you for our guardian and protector, we should be lost. But we will wait for a change of fortune, and trust in you to deliver us. The King has written and demanded certain of our members to be surrendered and take their trial in another court than that of our Chancellor. We are therefore in a great strait, betwixt the hammer and the anvil, for if we give them up, we violate our oath to maintain our privilege, and so imperil our souls; but, if we refuse, we are of all men most miserable, for we shall incur the wrath of the King.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Joanni, Dei gratia Cardinali, et Cantuariensi dignissimo archipresuli dominoque nostro Cancellario magnificentissimo, omnis Oxonie regencium cetus cum omni reverencia salutem plurimam dicunt. Si quando, sanctissime Cardinalis, Oxonia magnis adversitatibus, magnis curis, magnis solicitudinibus fatigata fuerit, nunquam certe existimamus majori 1495.

turbine, indigniori fortuna, acerbiori morbo quam hodie ipsa respublica percussa est. Ita enim extenuati sumus ut, nisi vestram sanctitatem custodem, presidem, propugnatorem nacti fuerimus vestre reipublice, perituris ac perditis hominibus similiores arbitrandi sumus quam fausti felicesque judicandi. Sequemur tamen fortune mutabilitatem, que prosperis adversa commiscere sepe solet; atque eam spem in vestra sanctitate collocabimus, ut omnes, quotquot hodie cruciamur, in vestra virtute omni tandem absoluti periculo evadamus. Quare clementissimam paternitatem vestram, maxime pastor, sumopere obtestamur atque obsecramus ut, sicut nos[1] semper salvos esse voluistis, ita nos magna confectos molestia semper integerrimos conservetis. Scripsit ad nos metuendissimus princeps, jussitque quosdam ex nostris scolasticis[2], falso[3], ut bene creditur, sue majestati super felonia accusatis; qui etiam externi judicis subire sententiam demum compellentur. Que res ita nostris legibus est contraria ut, si eam admittamus, omnes id peccati non effugimus quod est fidem nostram Universitati prestitam violare. Incudi igitur et mallio sumus interpositi. Si regio parere[4] voto necesse erit fidem nostram violamus, et ira Dei super nos; si autem regio precepto non paremus miseriores sumus omnibus hominibus, quod tam metuendi principis indignacionem incurrendum est. Rogamus tamen maximopere sanctitatem vestram, ut placatum in nos metuendum principem faciat, cui et subditissimi et obsequentissimi semper sumus.

477.

Ad Regem.

The receipt of your terrible letter filled us with uncontrollable grief. But we are confident that, though displeased with our having no answer ready, you will not deem us to have slighted or neglected your commands, before you have our defence for our conduct; which you will find to be no trumpery excuse; and, if there is truth and justice in our petition, you will not reject it. Your command that we should deliver certain members of our society—accused, as we believe, falsely—that they may be punished for their crimes, is one that we should consider it impious to disobey, but for an insuperable impediment. For so it is that we are bound by our oath to maintain our statutes and privileges inviolate, and these forbid us to allow our members to be tried in a non-University court; to obey the

[1] This word seems to be a mixture of *nos* and *quos* MS. [2] *scolastis* MS.
[3] Though the sentence is incomplete, there is no word omitted or ambiguous in the MS., but the words *ad suam*, written before *falso* in the MS., are there erased.
[4] *parere* repeated in MS.

order would, therefore, make us guilty of perjury, odious alike to God and man. We are persuaded that you will not expose us to such a danger, nor render nugatory the privileges you have yourself confirmed, and we pray you to suffer us to inflict here the extreme penalty, if a long imprisonment be not a sufficient punishment.

METUENDISSIMO invictissimoque principi nostro, Henrico, &c. Non possumus, invictissime princeps, dolori nostro statim imperare, dum litteras vestras maximo perfusas terrore jam proxime audiremus, que potentissimam dignitatem vestram in Oxonienses subiratam esse declararunt, quod vestro mandato nihil responsi paraverimus de iis nostris scolasticis regie majestati vestre accusatis, quos carcere apud nos clausos vinctosque tenemus. Sed non ante, confidimus, optima gratia vestra nos aut levitatis aut ignavie arguere velit quam non effictas excusaciones nostras per nos tandem clara luce concipiat. Imprimis, igitur, id unum a serenissima dignitate vestra quam sumopere expectamus, ut, si quid justi, si quid honesti, si quid optimi abs tam magnificentissima dignitate vestra hodierno die petimus, nos non repelli amplissima potencia vestra concedat. Precepit celsitudo vestra quosdam ex nostris scolasticis, falso, ut confidimus, crimine accusatos, regie dignitati vestre transmitti debere, qui pro sceleribus penam subeant; cui profecto non parere mandato nefas duximus, nisi id nobis cause intercederet, que, preter nostrum omnium periculum, maximam conscienciarum offensionem, atque preter lesam rem ipsam, fieri non paciatur. Eo namque sacramento omnes sumus astricti ut nec libertatibus contravenire, nec statutis derogare, neque privilegiis obviare possimus, nisi fidei nostre violatores esse volumus, quam Deo et Universitati integerrime sumus professi. Quod si contra statuta in externum judicem hos transferri statuerimus, quibus dignissimus ille Cardinalis Cantuariensis archiepiscopus, Universitatis vestre dignissimus Cancellarius, judex est constitutus, fracta nobis fides est, statuta vacant, privilegia eripiuntur, cassate consuetudines; et, quod omnium horrendissimum est, Deo et hominibus odiosi constituimur in fide violata. Sed [non][1] nos tantis[2] exponi periculis, palam novimus, piissime princeps, in quo omne genus virtutum reperire est, maxima gratia vestra pacietur: neque equa vestra dignitas, confidimus, efficiet ut, quos magnis privilegiis amplissime roborastis, eos ipsos abjectos frustratosque relinquatis. Eam ergo nobis potestatem, rex mansuetissime, divine clementissimeque princeps, vestra gracia impertiri velit, ut quos diximus scolasticos in hac vestra Universitate extremas subire penas vestra gracia patiatur, si longo carcere satis penarum non pertulere. 1495.

[1] *non* omitted in MS. [2] *tantis* erased in the MS.

478.

Ad dominum Cancellarium.

This is a blessed day, in which we find ourselves delivered by your mediation from the anger of our dread sovereign. How happy ought we to be that your great power has saved us! We bear witness to the skill and tact by which this result has been obtained, and future generations will preserve the memory of this great success. What more could the most loving father, the best of pastors, do for his children; divine is the only word to express our deliverance from overwhelming anxiety and the abandonment of despair. Our gratitude knows no bounds, and our prayers for you shall never fail.

1495. Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Joanni, Dei gracia Cardinali et Cantuariensi dignissimo archipresuli, &c. Felicem certe beatumque diem hodie videmus, optime pastor, in quo spectatissimam paternitatem vestram, nostram et reipublice nostre salutem, defensionem, liberacionem abs tam metuendissimo principe nostro plenissime consecutam esse perspicimus. Unde non tam de nostris infortuniis ingemiscendum unquam fuit quam bonis fortunis hodie gratulandum. Quam nobis maxime sit letandum, quod salvi in tam maxima potencia vestra, sanctissime pastor, evasimus! Nos enim testes unquam esse debemus qua gracia, quo fructu, quam singulari racione Universitatem istam amplissima vestra auctoritas accumulatissime est prosecuta. Sed nec in nostra posteritate, recte affirmamus, res illa tam clarissime gesta oblivionem pacietur. O patrem carissimum, O vere pastorem optimum! Quid enim pater in filios magis carum effecisse potuit, quam prope perditos, multa anxietate obrutos, pene dejectissimos magna caritate tandem liberare filios? Plane nisi rem istam divinam esse dixerimus, nobis non occurrat recte illam appellare[1]. Pro qua summas, infinitas atque immortales gracias sancte paternitati vestre semper habemus, precesque nostre apud Deum pro vestra dignitate nunquam deficient. Ille Pater divinus[2], celum cui subjicitur omne, te regat, inspiret perpetuetque, pater.

479.

Ad Regem.

No favour could be greater than that you have of your great mercy granted us, and it is deeply engraved on our hearts. We should be ungrateful indeed, did we not in return offer our prayers for you, and hold

[1] *appellare liceat* MS. [2] *divus* ib.

ourselves ever in readiness to serve you: for, if we cherish the memory of those great kings, to whom we owe every increase of our welfare, we see that we owe even more to you. All men know how richly we have profited by your generosity in the past, and our sense of your recent clemency deserves to be preserved in an imperishable record. We offer our heartfelt thanks, and, while striving to show ourselves your obedient servants, our prayer shall ever be, 'God save the King!'

METUENDISSIMO, &c. Non potuit, invictissime princeps, regia celsitudo vestra rem nobis unquam graciorem piissime concessisse, quam hodie factum est magna vos misericordia, summa gracia, maxima denique benevolencia nostris in causis prosecutum iri[1], atque benignissime nos exaudiendos ducere. Que res ita sese nostris mentibus constanter impressit ut non cito labatur oportet. Fecit nos tantum amplissime celsitudini vestre debere, ut, nisi nostris precibus tante misericordie responderimus, ingratos homines nos recte appellare necesse erit. Neque conquiescemus unquam nisi tanto principi nos officiosissimos paraverimus. Nec ab re sumus ad hoc justissime inclinati, nam si maximorum principum, quorum patrociniis respublica nostra plurimum adaucta est, preclara facta memorie commendabimus, invenimus profecto istorum magnam, vestram autem fuisse in nos maximam graciam. Est enim immortalibus litteris res illa mandanda, quam jam proxime sumus abs tam magnificentissima vestra majestate consecuti[2]. Superioribus autem temporibus quantis incrementis per vestram graciam satis ubertim donati sumus, nemo est qui in luce non habeat. Habemus ergo pro his omnibus maxime dignitati vestre infinitas gracias atque maximas, studebimusque pro virili nos regie vestre dignitati placentissimos reddere, neque id orationis unquam pretermittemus '*Domine, salvum fac regem.*' Et felicissime valeat regalis celsitudo vestra, faciatque Deus, vehementer oramus, plurimos annos eosque letissimos vestra gracia videat. Amen.

1495. **Fol. 179 a.**

480.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury[3].

An event has occurred, of a kind unknown in these days, so harassing to us that we are obliged to invoke your aid; that we be not trampled under foot by our enemies. Grievous wolves, not sparing the flock, for so we may describe the townsmen, scatter the sheep and devour the lambs of our fold; but we trust by your protection to preserve our statutes and privileges, which it is their object to destroy. Certain townsmen have

[1] Such is the passage in the MS. [2] *sumus* repeated in MS. [3] No title in MS.

cited Master T. Cisson, an excellent man and successful teacher, to appear in your court; on a charge which he, being the bearer of these, will explain to you. We, in pursuance of our statutes, cast John Royce, who served the citation, into prison; whereupon he caused Master Cisson to be again cited, accusing him also of contempt of court, though, clearly, one who is exempt by apostolic letters, and who is moreover now coming to present himself before you, cannot be said to be guilty of contempt. Defend, then, we implore you, this sheep of our flock; in his case is involved the security of us all.

1495. Reverendissimo in Christo, &c. Rem novam hodie atque nostro seculo inauditam excellentissime dominationi vestre dicere nobis nuper propositi negocii magnitudo, et nostrum omnium satis acerba molestacio, magnopere nos impellit; facitque eam, qua nos semper prosequimini, admirabilem graciam vestram imploremus, ut, qui magnis injuriis per adversarios, quos plurimos habemus, valde contriti sumus, victores tandem nos evasuros in vestra propugnacione speremus. Invadunt, optime pastor, gregem illum, quem vestra maxima auctoritas in tutelam suscepit, lupi rapaces, quales, si recte dixerimus, quosdam hujus oppidi laicos non injuria appellare licet. Sed non tam acerrime invadunt quam sunt ad dispergendas oves paratissimi, ad devorandos agnos accuratissimi; ad frustranda statuta, evertenda privilegia, perdendas optimas consuetudines confederatissimi. Speramus tamen innocentibus nobis nefarios homines parum nocere posse, dum ad defensionem statuta et privilegia manifestissima habeamus. Exaudiat igitur nos amplissima dominacio vestra, faciatque tanta inquietatione liberari, vehementer obsecramus. Citarunt jampridem, optime pastor, quidam laici de suburbiis Oxonie magistrum Thomam Cisson, bonarum arcium acutissimum interpretem, virum magna virtute preditum et vestre Universitatis regentem necessarium; ipsaque citacio ex vestre audiencie curia ad eum in Universitate transmissa est. Unde autem omnis res emanarit, quem diximus magistrum Thomam, qui noster hodie tabellarius est, existimamus ad reverendissimam dominacionem vestram palam significaturum. Facta tandem citacione per Joannem Royce laicum, nihil statuti pretermittentes nostra ex parte, carceribus eum mandavimus, atque hujusce rei[1] primis auctoribus eandem recte statuimus penam. Cujus occasione rei idem Joannes Royce dictum magistrum Thomam cum aliis privilegiatis secundo citari fecit, et in eum contemptum magna fraude suscitavit; sed quam sit omni contemptu immunis statim videre est. Is enim, confidimus, non contemnit, quem leges private littereque apostolice exemerunt, dum se contu-

[1] *re rei* MS.

macem comparendo non reddidit. Venit et nunc ad vestre audientie curiam vocatus, plenam liberacionem abs tam prestantissima dominacione vestra expectaturus. Neque hac in re solius hominis causa agitur, sed reipublice regencium profecto tractatur. Quare si inimicorum impetum propulsare atque repellere maxima potencia vestra semper cupiit, oviculam istam hodie defendat oramus; in qua nostram et suam salutem, et suum et nostrum periculum perspicimus. Et felicissime valeat, &c.; *Quinto nonas Maiias.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey[1].

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Morton, Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Anthonium Fyschare et magistrum Robertum Dale, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Enysham in comitatu Oxonie, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati debita: De quibus quidem fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi sigillatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto die Maii, anno regni regis Henrici septimi decimo.* 1494.

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Morton, Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, et magistrum Anthonium Fyschare et magistrum Robertum Daale, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presencium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxonie, viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro quadam annua pensione dicte Universitati debita; dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus, cum de hiis nos fore solutos fateamur per presentes sigillo nostro communi sigillatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, quarto die mensis Maii.* 1494.

481.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury[2].

Never was there a more evident proof of that readiness to befriend us, always manifested by you alike in prosperity and adversity, than that which now demands our grateful acknowledgement; showing, as it does, that notwithstanding all your weighty responsibilities you do not forget us. We have just heard that, owing to your efforts, and yours alone, you have—without having any copy of them before you—included the gist of

[1] This and the next following acquittances are misplaced in the MS., and belong to the year 1494, as appears from the names of the proctors. See p. 621. [2] No title in MS.

all our privileges in the powers conferred on our Seneschall; so that he will be able sufficiently to punish any evil-doers brought before him. We thank you for this your thoughtful care, and shall ever strive to do what pleases you.

1495. REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri, &c. Nulla omnium est mortalium nostra sententia tam spectabilis auctoritas, reverendissime pater ac domine, cui nos unquam ita debere profiteamur ac summe celebritati vestre; que nunquam aut tristibus aut secundis rebus nobis defuisse visa est, dum maxime prosit. Cujus rei integritatem, etsi multis argumentis claram in conspectu habeamus, nulla tamen dies, qua res majori in luce foret, nobis illuxit quam hodie; quod inter medias causas et gravissimas curas vestras de nobis oblivionem fieri vestra amplitudo non patiatur. Didicimus enim proxime optimam paternitatem vestram nostri gracia tantopere insudasse, ut nihil hic loci ad senescalli nostri onus attineat, quod, nullo vel dato exemplari vel interveniente cujuspiam nisi maximo vestro sudore, ex nostris privilegiis vestra dignitas compendiose non excerpsit. Eoque fine rem esse confectam accepimus, quod vestra commissione ea vis illustrissimo militi domino Reginaldo Bray collata foret, ut, si quos hic nefarios homines fortuna esse tulerit, satis illi penarum in hoc judice ferrent. Que res quanta sit caritas vestra in rempublicam istam, quantus amor in scolasticos, quam sit in matrem nostram admirabilis pietas, magnopere molitur exponere. Rem istam profecto maximam fateamur oportet, pro qua immortales gratias, que tanto patroni digne sunt, reverendissime dominacioni vestre semper habemus; curabimusque omni studio quicquid amplissime paternitati vestre acceptum fuerit semper efficere. Et ad longa tempora felicissime vestra dominacio valeat. Amen. *Datum undevicesimo die Julii.*

482.

Fol. 179 b.

To Doctor Wareham.

Your numerous good offices demand that grateful recognition always admitted by our forefathers to be due to those, from whom they received great advantages. Your successful efforts to place the University Chest in a solvent condition deserve no less gratitude than if you had been the founder. Dr. Fitzjames, who related to us what you have done, has delivered into our hands the sum of ninety pounds; for which not only we, but our posterity likewise, shall remain for ever obliged to you. Bring, we pray you, your labours in our behalf to a conclusion as happy as the beginning!

SPECTATISSIMO viro et peritissimo legum professori, domino doctori Wareham, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie omnisque regentium cetus in eadem salutem plurimam. Si majores nostri eos benemeritos homines, a quibus maximos fructus acceperunt, non solum summis laudibus dignos putaverunt, sed etiam eternis memoriis commendatos recte voluerunt, tum nos te maxime prosequi, maxime tui studiosos esse, maxime tuis ornamentis insistere fas erit, abs quo magna nobis beneficia cotidie nascuntur. Ita enim pro nobis in gerendis rebus crebro diligentissimus exercuisti. In primis jam proxime pro stabilienda cista nostre Universitati tantopere molitus es, ut si quod genus gracia-rum hujus nove capse fundatori non injuria debendum sit—debetur autem maxime—plane non impares non inferiores gracias—sic nostra sententia est—a nobis expectare potes; qui perditas prope atque alienatas peneque ademptas pecunias nobis tua solius opera humanissimus reddidisti. Adeoque res est per te tandem curata, ut ad nostras manus per clarissimum virum doctorem fythejamys, qui et te nobis tante rei maximum auctorem predicavit, nonaginta libre salvo perferantur. Que res, cum nobis omnique posteritati preciosissima visa sit atque sempiternis inserenda litteris, summopere nos invitat, quas optimis benefactoribus homines solent, summas gracias et debere et facere—habemusque immortales—et nos tibi perpetuo tenet devinctos. Fac, oramus, colendissime vir, hec nostra negocia beatum finem habitura, quibus felix per te medium felici principio respondit. Et bene valeat prestantia tua, cui nos plurimum commendamus. *Datum, &c. Octobris nonodecimo.* Tue salutis amantissimi, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis omnisque regentium cetus. 1495.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Morton, Dei gracia Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Wilhelmum Hasarde, magistrum Wilhelmum Marbyll, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxonie, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes nostro sigillo communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi undecimo, mensis Novembris die vicesimo septimo.* 1495.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1495. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Morton, Dei gracia Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum W. Hasard, magistrum W. Marbull, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxonie, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati debita: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos et dictum Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes communi nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo primo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi undecimo.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

1495. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Morton, Dei gracia Cardinalem et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum W. Hasarde, magistrum W. Marbull, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxonie, viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro quadam annua pensione dicte Universitati debita; dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus, cum de hiis nos fore solutos fateamur per presentes sigillo nostro communi sigillatas[1]. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, vicesimo septimo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi undecimo.*

483.

To the Chancellor of the University.

There has been a great dispute in Congregation about the election of our bedel[2], *whose office is one of very constant employment. Opinions on both sides of the question are obstinate and, though we have several times adjourned the debate, no settlement has been reached. In the meantime we endeavoured to persuade the rival candidates that it would be well if one would retire. This also was ineffectual. We do not know what may have been the interpretation of our statutes on this point in times past, and are unable to say how they were put into effect; and the whole subject is one which needs your superior wisdom to elucidate it.*

1495. REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri, &c. Magna in senatu disceptatio de preconis nostri electione, hominis in Universitate officiosissimi, jam

[1] *sigillatos* MS. [2] The word *praeco* is, it seems, synonymous with *bedel*, though it does not occur in that sense in the earlier part of this collection; see pp. 649, 668, 670, 678.

proxime est secuta, reverendissime pater, et in contrarias sententias ultro distrahuntur animi senatorum; adeo ut difficillimum prope sit eam ex animis hominum utraque in parte opinionem evellere que insederat. Que res, ubi in eam concertacionem deducta est, non mediocriter nos impulit ad plurimos senatus causam ipsam extraheremus, eo denique consilio ut tam dispertiti animi reconciliari tandem possent, atque unam in sententiam cogi; id plane quod nostre expectacioni respondere non potuit. Convenimus interim eos, qui de officio concertant, suademus alterum alteri cedendum esse constituere. Verum in ea re parum profecimus, et neuter alterius argumentis locum reliquerit dum deliberacioni concederetur otium. Sed cum statuta nostra, quorum ex superioris evi patribus interpretaciones de hoc preconum labore antea nunquam suscepimus, omnibus in rebus nobis censores esse et possunt et debebunt; vestro mandato ducti, cui profecto non parere nefas existimamus, ea ad prestantissimam dominationem vestram mitteremus, recte visum est faciendum; ut ex tam acutissimo interprete et divino quodam lumine predito aliquid nobis illuceat, quo ejusmodi rei diffinicionem aliquando exploremus. In postremis abs tam prestanti dominatione vestra interrogamur, qualiter executioni statuta mandari solebant. Cui expectato etsi satisfaciendi maxime cupidi simus, nobis tamen eripitur facultas, quod et sparsim et vage in opinione disjecti sumus; quod qua ex causa profectum aliud nihil quam ex statuto comperimus. Magna igitur, sic existimamus, interpretatione opus est ad rei perfectionem. Quare vestram dignitatem majorem in modum rogamus ut, si in rescribendis epistolis apud maximam auctoritatem vestram aliqua ex parte tardiusculi judicati simus, excusationem qua utimur, pro summa prudentia ac singulari in nos gratia, suscipiat: non enim aut incuria aut facilitate nostra evenit quod litteras antea non dederimus. Et valeat feliciter dominatio vestra. *Datum in magno regentium et non-regentium senatu, Novembris nono decimo.*

Acquittances of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Mortone, Dei gracia Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Roulondum Phylipps, magistrum Thomam Craconthorpe, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxonie, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlingorum, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes nostro sigillo 1496.

communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi duodecimo, et Decembris tertio.*

1496. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Mortone, Dei gracia Cardinalem presbiterum, magistrum Roulondum Philyps et magistrum Thomam Craconthorpe, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxonie, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati debita: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes communi nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, septimo Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi duodecimo.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

1496. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Mortone, Dei gracia Cardinalem presbiterum, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Roulondum Philips et magistrum Thomam Craconthorpe, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxonie, viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro quadam annua pensione dicte Universitati debita: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes communi nostro sigillo signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, octavo die Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi duodecimo.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1497. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Mortone, Dei gracia Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxonie Cancellarium, magistrum Thomam Drax, magistrum Ricardum Sedmore, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxonie, sedecim solidos octo denarios sterlyngorum, in partem solutionis cujusdam annue pensionis predicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debite: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde
Fol. 180 a. acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi tercio decimo, et Decembris die quarto decimo.*

Acquittance of Osney Abbey.

1497. NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Mortone, Dei gracia Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum

Thomam Drax, magistrum Ricardum Sedmore, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osney in comitatu Oxonie, viginti sex solidos octo denarios bone et legalis monete Anglie, pro quadam annua pensione dicte Universitati per prefatos Abbatem et conventum debita: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, Decembris primo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi tercio decimo.*

484[1].

It is always our desire to mark, by such distinctions as we have in our power to confer, our appreciation of exalted merit, in such of our members as have risen to eminence in other Universities. So to do conciliates, we apprehend, their good feelings towards us, and adds to our reputation. We therefore beg you to accept the offer of incorporation with us; an honour inadequate, we know, to your deserts, but the greatest we have to offer.

REVERENDO, &c. Cum nostra ex familia nostroque genere sublatus sis, colendissime antistes, quod nobis non parum et glorie et voluptatis quotidie affert; tantum tue dignitati non injuria prestare cupimus quantum nostra hic loci autoritas et honoris et magisterii concedere posset. Eo namque animo esse debemus, ut nostros, quanquam alienis gymnasiis evectos atque summos gradus consecutos, in nostre achademie amorem integerrime trahamus, magnam inde gloriam aliquando relaturi. Pulcrius enim atque decentius Universitati accedere posset nihil, quam summis atque elegantissimis viris, quorum in numero justissime reponi debes, prestantissime eam perornatam illustratamque videre. Quam rem dum non obscure voluimus, vehementer incitati sumus tuam tue dignitati incorporacionem, non preter egregia merita tua, integerrimo senatu impetrare. Munus ergo, piissime presul, quod damus, quamvis exiguum, te nimis obtestamur accipere: Si enim aliquid effici supra per nos potuisset, quod tanto viro dignum judicaretur, omisissemus profecto nihil. 1497.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Joannem Mortone, Dei gracia Cardinalem, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Thomam Drax, magistrum Ricardum Sydmore, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de 1497.

[1] No title.

Abbate et conventu de Ensham in comitatu Oxonie, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam annua pensione dicte Universitati debita: De quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, secundo Aprilis, anno regni regis Henrici septimi tertio decimo.*

485.

ol. 180 b. **Ad Regem.**

We have long been in great measure relieved by your grace from the heavy burden of the taxes necessary for the conduct of your wars—a burden beyond our ability to bear. This is a great help to us and deserves to be never forgotten. But what favour is there that you have not granted us? We will strive to serve you with all our might, and our prayers that God may defend you shall never fail.

1497. METUENDISSIMO principi nostro, Henrico, Dei gracia regnorum Anglie et Francie invictissimo regi, &c. Maximum nobis onus, illudque profecto nostris viribus longe impar, vestra celsitudo, amplissime Cesar, jamdudum levavit; quod reddendis vectigalibus, que vestris copiis bellisque gerendis necessaria maxime sunt, Oxonienses, quos multa inopia quotidie premit, summa in largitate absolverit. Que res, sic nostra sententia est, nobis non solum commemoranda, qui maximos ex ea fructus accipimus, sed et eternis memoriis recte commendanda erit; ut tam divini principis nomen splendorem atque summam in clerum pietatem omnis nostra posteritas et predicet et admiretur. Fidem enim nostram! que potuit reipublice nostre addi gracia, quam metuendissimus princeps suapte natura nobis non contulerit? Aliud plane hac in re potuimus expectare nihil quam graciam vestram, que cumulo quasi quodam ab tam dignissima majestate[1] nobis profecta est. Itaque viribus studendum est nobis tam strenuissimo principi sumopere inservire, et regalitatem vestram unice nobis esse colendam. Nec deerunt, quas perpetuo fundemus, pro dignitate vestra preces nostre, quod Deus ipse, qui justissimo, Christianissimo, religiosissimo principi non esse propugnationi non potest, de hoste semper triumphum tenere et multos in terra feliciter videre dies concedat. Amen. *Datum in regentium senatu.*

[1] *majeste* MS.

486.

Ad Cancellarium.

Your numerous and grave duties have not prevented your assisting and protecting our interests: very justly, therefore, do we feel the greatness of our obligation, and desire to record our sense thereof. To your many other benefits conferred upon us you have now added the exemption of the University from payment of tenths and fifteenths, for had you not opposed those who desired to see us crushed by these taxes, we should have been in no better condition than ruined and outcast men. God has raised you up to be our defence in all adversities. May He long preserve you and reward you, as we cannot. If you will bid Master E. Wylford to do so, he will undertake the duties of the theological lecture lately founded by the Queen-mother; and this will be very acceptable to us, for we think the appointment would be in every way desirable.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, domino Johanni, Dei gracia presbitero Cardinali, &c. Etsi multis et arduis rebus, que nos undique sepe disturbarunt, summo presidio, adjumento, tuitionique vestra dignitas semper fuit; unde non injuria perpetuo nos illi obstringimur, et splendoris atque nominis vestri eternitatem predicare impellimur; accedit tamen ad tam egregia facta unum illud, quod multis preclare gestis pene equaverit, Oxoniensem rempublicam decimis et quindenis vestram graciam summa industria exemisse. Maxime laudandum eorum sentenciis velle dignitatem vestram forti animo obstitisse, qui tanto nos onere succumbere voluerunt. Quod si cum ceteris in sententia manere amplissima autoritas vestra constituisset, quid perditis, quid miserrimis hominibus, quid a patria pulsis et Oxoniensibus interfuisset? Ita igitur sana fide existimamus sic nobis ex Deo natam esse paternitatem vestram, ut nihil adversi, calamitatum nihil Oxoniensibus successurum sit, quod facile vestra ope vincere statim non possemus. Vivat igitur tam celebris nobis patronus, vivat unicum nobis perfugium et spei nostre perfecta repositio! Et Deus ille tantis velit pro nobis respondere beneficiis, qui ad hujusce rei magnitudinem non sufficimus. Alterum nobis interea succedit, dignissime cardinalis, in quo, si graciam vestram amicam nobis constituerimus, beatos nos existimare licebit. Rem nobis gratissimam atque admodum utilem celeberrima domina mater regia jam proxime contulit, publicam sacre theologie doctrinam hoc in clarissimo Oxonie gignasio suo sumptu perpetuo fundatura. Cui rei magis idoneum quam vestre dignitati officiosissimum magistrum, Edmundum Wylfford, comperimus in Oxonia neminem. Is tamen id oneris nulla prece, nullo suasore, nullo stipendio subiturus est, nisi vestra autoritas, que 1497.

maxima illi precipere potest, rem ipsam aggrediatur hominem impellat. Quod ut faciat vehementer sanctitatem vestram atque vehementissime rogamus: erit enim, sic certo confidimus, et fame et glorie vestre auctissimum, sibi autem et fructui et honestati pulcherrimum. Et hiis vivat feliciter dignitas vestra. *Datum Oxonie in regentium senatu.*

487.

Ad Regis matrem.

Those most respected, kings, prelates, and generals, and men of almost every rank of society have been solicitous for our welfare and the progress of education; but it has remained for one princess, of rank most exalted and of character divine, to do that which none have done before. Nothing can be nobler than to provide, as you have done, unasked, for the teaching of theology. This is the subject we value, relish, and love above all others; and we cannot but reckon you among the founders of our University, and deserving at our hands the same thanks, and the same prayers.

1497. SERENISSIME domine ac principi, domine nobis unice colende, domine regie matri, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis universumque regentium in eadem contubernium summa in reverentia salutem. Utilitatis nostre atque optimarum litterarum maxima existimacione viri, celeberrima princeps, nonnunquam studiosissimi fuere. Christianissimi principes, quorum fame immortalitas apud Oxonienses tuto est reposita, piissimi antistites, quos non in postremis pro beneficiorum magnitudine recolere decet, illustrissimi duces, per quos publica nobis commoda vehementer aucta sunt, omnisque pene status hominum Oxoniam atque optima ejus studia summo amore complexi sunt. Qui tametsi suis in nos beneficiis non injuria triumphare possent, una tamen colendissima princeps tamque divina matrona non tam amoris amplitudine, id quod fateri[1] necesse est, quam pulcherrimi largitate beneficii omnibus sese non longe inferiorem[2]. . . . Nihil enim ad rem magis preclaram magisve divinam propius accedit, pro qua sempiternos vestre dignitati nos debitores profitemur, quam in bonarum litterarum studiis maxima caritate graciam vestram fervuisse, earum presertim que fidem Christi ubique gentium corroborent atque confirment. Etsi interea illud memoratu dignissimum, eo animo in Christi ecclesiam esse reverendissimam dominam, ut sua sponte suoque sumptu sacras litteras Oxonie edoceri institueret, qualem aliquando rem effecisse pauculos nostram ante vitam profecto nacti sumus. Que res cum nobis preciosa, delicata, carissimaque sit, non mediocriter

[1] *fatere* MS. [2] Sentence thus incomplete in MS.

invitat cum primis reipublice auctoribus vestram graciam, quam unice colimus, recensere. Qui si nostris precibus atque immortalibus[1] graciis pro meritis donandi sunt, iisdem sana fide nec inferioribus vestra donanda est gracia; quod et facturos nos constanter recipimus, et vestre dignitati semper erimus officiosissimi; que multos annos feliciter valeat.

488.

Ad Doctorem Knygteley.

The gift with which you have lately presented us is so valuable and beautiful, that we regard the giver as among our chief benefactors; for while it will be conspicuous to all among the ornaments of S. Mary's Church, where our convocations meet, it will likewise be convenient, ornamental and useful. We shall never suffer our gratitude to grow cold, and shall honour your name as that of one of the most dutiful and loving of our sons.

CELEBERRIMO viro et peritissimo medicinarum interpreti, domino doctori Knygteley, Cancellarius Universitatis, &c. Ea est et amplitudine et prestantia quod nobis abs te proximis his diebus allatum est munus, colendissime doctor, ut tibi et precipuis hujus nostre academie auctoribus in tam preclari beneficii largitate parum, vel certe prope interesse nihil sentire liceat; quippe cum in conspectu creberrime sit omnium, nedum sacratissime Virginis templo—ad quod omnis concursitat senatus—pulcherrimis ornamentis adesse conspicitur, sed et ad reipublice nostre—quam integerrime omnes non injuria colere debemus, quamque non minus egregie ipse complecteris—commodum, gloriam et honorem, fructumque amplissimum conducere non obscurum est. Que res, dum ex te benefactore nobis singulari, amantissimo, munificentissimo tota processit, fieri nostra sine incuria non potest ut tanti aut obeat aut tepescat memoria beneficii. Adeo enim nos tibi conjunctos effecisti, ut, tametsi noster olim alumnus non fuisses, maximam tamen graciam hoc in uno beneficio ipse a nobis comparasses. Quantum igitur te pluris faciemus, quantum te colere fas erit, qui de nostra matre sublatus es, quique eam maxime prosequeris, tu tecum, ut scis optime, persuadeas. Nos autem sic existimamus, non solum pro ea re summas tibi gracias atque immortales habendas esse, sed nominis tui eternitatem et nobis et posteris celebrandam predicandamque probamus. Vale igitur, conjunctissime doctor, et vive felicissimus; reddatque tibi Deus cum usuris muneris tui amplitudinem. Amen. *Datum nostro in senatu, Novembris nonodecimo. Burgeys.* 1497.

[1] *imortalibus* MS.

Rolls delivered for Proctor's accounts.

SEXTO die Marcii, extracti[1] sunt a cista nostra tres rotuli dati in manus procuratorum pro computo suo.

489.

'ol. 181 a.

To the Archbishop of Canterbury[2].

Ut reverteretur Doctor Roper.

One trouble besets us at this time, which, if not immediately resisted, will bring upon us a host of others. There is yet time to extinguish the spark, before it breaks out into a flame. Dr. Roper, a most learned and highly valued lecturer in theology, is cited to appear before the judges of both benches, and the clerk of the rolls. Conscious of innocence, he has gone to obey the summons, and in the meantime his lectures at Magdalen College are greatly missed, for of all our lecturers in that subject he is most sought after, and we cannot get on without him. We entreat you therefore to obtain for us his speedy return.

1497. REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri ac domino, &c. Reipublice nostre, cujus omnes studiosissimi esse debemus, unum illud hodie adversatur, dignissime Cardinalis, cui si non statim obsistimus magnis nos tandem confici injuriis aperte videre licet; unde non tam unquam libera habita est Oxonia, non tam suis privilegiis celeberrima quam fuerit ingravescente hoc morbo miserrima atque dejectissima. Sed non eum ad locum deducta res est ut magni quicquam hucusque, futura tamen ipsa prudentia pertractat ut levi in scintilla sevissimam flammam extinguat. Res igitur in summa hec est. Magister Johannes Bopar[3], bonarum artium peritissimus interpres et probatissimus sacre theologie bachularius, vir omni Universitati vestre admodum delicatus—sacras enim scripturas publice et docet et aperit ad nostram dignitatem, cui deditissimus atque officiosissimus est—ad thesaurarium et capitales justiciarios de utroque banco, et ad rotulorum clericum in brevi de statuto accersitur. Qui, quum erecto et inconcusso sit animo, autoritati jam paret. Cujus ab Universitate profectionem nonnulli hoc in termino accidisse dolent, quod sacras lectiones in Magdalene contubernio omissuri sunt. Ipse enim omnium hic loci est expectatio theologorum; quo vix unum diem carere possumus, et quas moras, pro rei fortasse magnitudine, facturus sit nescimus. Interim autem magno conceditur studere ocio. Quare vestram dignitatem in primis

[1] *extracte*, MS. [2] No title in MS. [3] This name is thus spelt here, but in the title it is Roper. Such variations are, it will be noticed, common in the MS.

magnopere oramus atque vehementer obtestamur, si fieri potest—id quod maxima autoritas vestra statim absolverit—hec nostra in citacionibus tandem evacuetur turbatio; faciatque, rogamus, virum istum innocentem, justum, pacificum, omni virtute preditum et nostre Universitati fructuosissimum, celerem ad nos iterum paret accessum, &c.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

QUARTO die Decembris, sigillate sunt acquietancie ad Abbatem et conventum de Eynsham pro sedecim solidis octo denariis, pro festo S. Nicholai sub forma communi superius sepe scripta. 1498.

490.

To Sir Robert Harecort[1].

We have always thought your illustrious ancestors staunch friends of this University, and hope we shall find you not less so in a request we make to-day—one which in no way is opposed to justice or prejudicial to your honour. It is reported that Simon Gaunt—a man justly much beholden to you—is about to sue one of our officials, Richard Wottone, for a large sum of money; and, in doing so, is by cunning manœuvres endeavouring to thwart the course of justice. Now you have great authority in the county and your unswerving justice is known to all, we pray you therefore to abstain from using your personal influence in the case, and to suffer justice to take its course.

ILLUSTRI et generoso militi, domino Roberto Harecort, &c. Patres tuos, viros cum genere clarissimos tum strenuitate spectatissimos, hujus nostre academie bene studiosos hactenus integerrime tenuimus; te quidem, inclite miles, benevolentia et sincero animo non hiis inferiorem nos habituros speramus, si quid abs te nobis hodierno presertim die expetendum est, quod nec justicie invidum nec tui honoris aut ornamenti inimicum fore comprobatur. Quare pro mutua, que nobis tecum est, necessitudine vehementer adhortari volumus causam accurate tractes quam offerimus, quo tibi conjunctissimos Oxonienses perpetuo compares. Accepimus nuper, contestata jam lite Ricardi Wottone, preconem atque servientem nostrum, quem pro meritis non mediocriter animo complectimur, Simonem Gaunt, qui tibi omne officium nec injuria debet, non parvi argenti gracia in judicium conventurum ire; cujus Ricardi, etsi optimis 1498.

[1] On the extreme edge of the margin, at foot of the folio, is written *ad Harcott pro Wutton.*

adjumentis instructa sit causa, animo tamen suspicatur hastutis quorumdam studiis, qui Simonem prosequuntur, aut ab equitate depelli, aut causam effingi aliquam, que legum omnino remoretur sentenciam. Sed quum tu, strenuissime miles, summe justicie semper studeas, qui maxima in comitatu potes, quem nemo contra equitatem permoveat; nobis magno animo superest a te petendum, si res tue sentencie deferenda est, leges ea in causa suam vim exercere patiare; neque hujus aut illius cause tete immisceas, nisi quantum equitati et consciencie conveniat: quam rem, si te pro nobis facturum recipias, comparabis nos tibi devinctissimos. Vale.

491.

Priori ecclesie Christi Cantuariensis.

Those who are conspicuous for wisdom and virtue ought to hold the highest offices: To you therefore this University, to which you owe your elevation, desires to offer an augmentation of your dignity, in requesting you to accept the chair of theology; and regrets that she has nothing to offer more commensurate with your merit.

1498. Merito viros ipsos primis magistratibus donandos esse decet, qui sapientie, virtutibus et optimis disciplinis student, consulunt atque magnopere enituntur. Quorum in numero quum te nec injuria recensere debeamus, es enim magna doctrina illuminatus, virtute prestantissimus, prudentia clarissimus; ad augendam tibi dignitatem et cumulanda ornamenta, que pro meritis nostra Universitas retribuere posset, nonnihil his diebus accensi sumus. Qui utinam tibi benefaciendo tam pares essemus quam facile dignissime tua virtus atque auctoritas promereatur et expetat. Id quod si vires nostre non elargiantur, ferendi tamen libenter a te sunt animi, qui ultro quod habent, ubi ardent, offerunt. Amoris enim gracia omnis iste Oxoniensium senatus, unde primam reportasti evectionem, superiorem theologie cathedram benemerito tibi concessit. Que res non parum te invitare debet oblatum munus percupido animo suscipias. Reliquum autem erit te summe adhortari, rogare, obtestari hanc nostram aliquando revisas, eandem sedem et auctoritatem inde relaturus, quam tui majores, viri omnium celeberrimi, optimo jure consecuti sunt. Cui rei, si tete paraturum accipias, et hec nostra cohortatio[1] aliquam apud te vim habeat, conjunctissimo nos tibi amore comparabis. Vale. *Datum quarto Marcii.*

[1] *choortatio* MS.

Acquittances of Eynsham and Osney Abbeys.

OCTODECIMO die Aprilis, sigillate sunt due acquietancie, una de Eynsham pro quinquaginta duobus solidis, alia de Osney pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis sub modo et forma antedictis. 1498.

A letter to the King sealed.

Vicesimo nono die Julii, sigillate sunt littere domino regi.

492.

Ad Episcopum Roffensem.

Fol. 181 b.

Our grief is greater than can be imagined, and, were it not that you can cure it, would be insupportable. It is to you we all look, in all changes of fortune, as our patron and defender; and may that evil day, which should at all diminish your regard for us, never dawn! We are however warned of our insecurity in the offence given by some of the most lowlived of our students; and we trust that you, whose estimate of things is so just, will not let the great majority of our society, who are good and peaceable and your very humble servants, suffer for the fault of a paltry handful of scamps.

REVERENDISSIMO in Christo patri, &c. Multo certe cumulatior[1] quam existimare quisquam potest adauctus est nobis dolor, quem non equanimiter unquam ferre possemus; nisi te hujus nostri meroris, ex quo nos potes tanquam e gravi morbo integerrime recreare, summam ac precipuam consolationem nos adepturos speraremus. Es enim unus tu, magnifice presul, ad quem, si et prosperis erecti stamus et adversis rebus compressi quassamur, omnis sese ad te hec urbs nostra continuo libenter effundit; cujus amore, gracia, presidio, sustentamento si destituendi aliquando sumus, videbimur haud dubie maximam glorie nostre et reipublice salutis partem amisisse. Sed pereat, quesumus, hec fortuna, que lucem nobis minatur videre illam, qua tuum animum, et eum in nos semper egregium, alieniorem a nobis ulla ex parte efficeremus. Vereri tamen rem ipsam nonnihil admoniti sumus, quod quidam ex nostris improbi ac sordidi adolescentes te propter tuos piissime fortasse commoverunt. Sed bene sperandum est nobis, cum egregius rerum omnium censor ac moderator sis, non te velle molesto in nos esse animo, qui te unice amamus, colimus, atque observamus. Omnes plane hic gencium, quos justos ac timoratos viros appellare licet, tue glorie, tuis ornamentis, voluntati, desiderio et tuorum omnium saluti accurate student. Quare id a te in 1498.

[1] *cumilatior* MS.

primis maxime rogamus, ut propter pauculos improbos, prestantes et summa quos habemus numerosos, tue quidem gracie officiosissimos nullo deteriori per te afficiantur incommodo. Quod si bene comprobes, levasti profecto non mediocrem animorum nostrorum anxietatem. *Burgeys.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

1498. VICESIMO quinto die Novembris, sigillata est acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham pro sedecim solidis octo denariis ad festum S. Nicholai, sub modo et forma in superioribus posita, '*Noverint universi per presentes nos, Joannem Morton, Dei gracia cardinalem, Universitatis Oxonie Cancellarium, magistrum Hugonem Bresy, magistrum Lethom,*' &c.

493.

Ad illuminatissimum virum, dominum Johannem Breteyn, sacrosancte theologie doctorem.

Your character and actions show your high appreciation of letters; for no other motive but ardent love for our University could have induced you to make us so valuable a donation, so far beyond any merits we possess. You might have put this large sum of money out at interest, but you have with divine charity bestowed it on the needy, a charity the more remarkable because you were not educated here. We are sincerely grateful, and will always make such a return as our affection and esteem naturally inspire.

1498. QUANTUM optimarum disciplinarum studiosos ipse pluris feceris, celeberrime doctor, una peritissimorum spes, salus et jubar singulare, animus coram et facta pre se ferunt; quum nec animo factum nec facto voluntas ipsa dissenciat. Quomodo enim induci unquam potuisti ut eum huic nostro gignasio thesaurum, et eum certe amplissimum, cumulares, nisi maxima caritate in nos ferbuisses? Homo plane abs quo nullis meritis tantam graciam ante comparavimus, sed tuapte natura invitatus nobis magnum reddidisti censum. Amor te profecto interior, quem in bonos semper exercere soles, et caritas, quam omnibus tua ex parte communicatam esse cupis, rem tam preclaram perpetuis monimentis recondendam ut efficeres haud parum admonuit. Poteras enim alteros ad usus tantum argenti pondus in aere et usura[1] distribuisse. Sed divina quadam mente effecisti, ut, ubi maxime opus sit, egenis[2] nobis illud effunderes; quod nedum liberalitatem tuam, que summa virtus est, in lucem constituit, sed precipuum eciam amorem, quo in nos fungeris, aperte declarat. Magnum certe erat

[1] *in oe ecusura* MS. [2] *ut egenis* ib.

virum te nobis peregrinum, non ex hujus nostre matris visceribus profusum, rem cum celebritate tum memoratu dignissimam effecisse: pro qua tibi plenissimas gracias referrimus, cui omnia libenter devovemus officia nostra; nec deesse unquam tue potest prestancie quicquid amoris aut pietatis tibi impertiri possimus. Vale. *Burgeys.*

494.

To the Lady Margaret[1].

That a report should have been made to you, calculated to diminish that generous favour you have hitherto shown us, is a bitter vexation; the more so that it is without foundation. The truth, as our proctor, in whose conscientious statement reliance may be placed, has repeatedly stated, is that a prostitute, whom he intended to punish, fled to Cowley, and on her return was fined and imprisoned. In this he in no way exceeded his powers, nor was there anything to give umbrage to W. Bedell. We pray then that you will not credit the untrue account of John Roys, our inveterate enemy, who has done us more injury than he can repair in the rest of his life.

SERENISSIME principi et magnificentissime domine, &c. Excruciat nos admodum, serenissima princeps, nec vulgari quidem sollicitudine comprimit, ad graciam vestram aliquid nuper delatum esse, quo gratiosissimus ille animus vester, idemque sane generosissimus, remissior in nos fieret, ac solita benevolentia frigidior. Quod eo nos plane acerbius conturbat, quo tante dignitati, abs qua non parva nobis quotidie beneficia proficiscuntur, cui omnia nostra officia jure devovemus, nulla prorsus dedita vel procurata criminis occasione, innocui egrius accusamur: cujus rei fidem Universitatis nostre procurator, magister Johannes Lethom, non minus, uti bene speramus, equitati quam integriori conscientie studens, sepissimenumero coram enunciavit. Verum, quid egerit unde ita accusatur, satis omnia eo profitente exploratum concipimus. Deprehensam enim infami vita mulierculam, idque Oxonie, ad penas cogere statuebat;—erat autem illud suo officio hic loci nihil alienum—que, quum auctoritatem timuisset, in finitimum nobis opidulum de Cowley clam sese trajecerat, non aliquamdiu illic commoratura, que nullum eo loci habitaculum habebat, verum ut hominem fallat intervallo quodam latitura. Sed ea demum in urbem reversa procuratoria autoritate et corpore et pecunia penam luebat. Quo in facto nihil procuratorem confecisse arbitramur quod prestanti et perlepido viro W. Bedell aliqua in parte officiat, aut ejus juri contra- 1498.

[1] No title in MS.

veniat; quem virum pro vestra gracia valde semper complectemur. Quare, si Johannes ille Roys, ut est nequam et Oxoniensibus infestissimus, secus de procuratore verba fecit, aut de nobis temere quicquam affirmavit quam moderato ac modesto animo virum deceat, dignitatem vestram maxime rogamus ut parum ejusmodi hominis fidem commendet; qui longe majora Oxoniensibus odia concitavit quam posset eis pro reliqua vita mediocres benevolentias atque amicitias cumulare. Et nos quicquid tam serenissima princeps hac in parte fieri jussit, omnibus bonis approbantibus, ut decet, accurate prosequemur. *Burgeys.*

Fol. 182 a. **Acquittances of Osney and Eynsham Abbeys.**

1499. Quarto decimo die Maii, sigillate sunt due acquietancie, una de Osney pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis; et alia de Eynsham pro quinquaginta duobus solidis, sub modo et forma superius communiter confectis.

495.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

By the death of the Archbishop of Canterbury we have lost an indefatigable champion; fearing therefore his removal may cost us the tranquillity we have enjoyed, and anxious to replace him by one who will similarly defend us in future, we have, with the accustomed solemnities and prayer for guidance, elected you to be our Chancellor. This choice is universally welcome here, and we hope that, as we had the honour of your education, we may enjoy the advantage of your protection. We offer herein the highest honour we have to confer, and in doing so have not consulted only our own interest, but likewise your exalted virtues and dignity.

1500. Colendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Willelmo, Dei gracia Lincolniensi episcopo, Cancellarius natus Universitatis Oxonie universusque regentium cetus in eadem sese commendatissimos faciunt. Dormiente cum patribus suis sanctissimo in Christo patre ac domino, domino Johanne, Dei gratia Cardinali et Cantuariensi archiepiscopo; ex cujus obitu nostri cancellariatus dignitatem ad tempus[1] vacare contigit, dolebat vehementer, felicissime presul, mater nostra Universitas Oxonie de tanti filii, quem acerrimum sui omnino defensorem habuit, tam mortifera orbacione. Que de sue vetuste tranquillitatis felicisque perseverantie, ex dicto jam casu, amissione plurimum pertimescens, nos indies lacrimis excitare hortarique in eum item eligendum non desiit, qui se ab omnium injuriis ac molestacionibus non secus in posterum ac antea tueri valeat et defendere. Quo fiebat

[1] *ad temus* MS.

ut, prefusa, Spiritus Sancti ea in re pro obtinenda gracia, communi omnium oracione, ac celebrata deinde in nostre congregationis domo solemni electione, tua integerrima paternitas ab omnibus, celesti tamen, ut creditur, spiramine quam humano judicio, dignissima putaretur. Quod utique fecimus memoratissimi non modo beneficiorum vestrorum, que in nos quotidianis vicibus exercere non desinitis, sed ob precipuam illam singularemque prudentiam plurimasque virtutes alias, quibus vestram dignitatem ornatam esse satis ipsi cognovimus. Hujus rei optatum exitum ut mater nostra predicta plenius intellexit, quasi de gravi somno erecta letissimoque vultu undique perfusa, ad vestram celsitudinem has litteras celerrime mitti fecit; quibus materna prece instantius deprecatur ut, cum vestram amplitudinem in hac nostra achademia alumnam olim sibi progenuerit, etiam impresentiarum precipuam patronam acerrimamque sui propugnatricem gratius consequatur. At cum nichill charius aut preciosius quod tante vestre prestantie elargiatur habeat inventum, oblata munuscula, licet exigua, leto animo excipiatis subnixius implorat. Habetis enim ex publicis nostri senatus suffragiis illam nostri cancellariatus sedem, illud tribunall conscendendi potestatem, a quo majores vestri non mediocrem gloriam antea reportarunt. Ad quam rem letius suscipiendam vestram dignitatem omnes una invitamus; semperque cum maxima felicitate prosperetur dominacio vestra. *Datum Oxonie in nostre congregacionis domo, mensis Novembris die quinto.*

Citation of Masters Gardinare and Brusy.

Decimo die Decembris, sigillate sunt due citaciones, una pro magistro Ricardo Gardinare, et magistro Hugone Brusy. **Fol. 182 b.**

496.

From the Chancellor of the University.

Litere date Universitati a domino Cancellario.

Though anxious to do so, I have been prevented from writing something in the way of a letter in reply to your very gratifying offer. I have had many innocent suitors to protect, and much need of reflection. Your choice is most flattering, and, though I feel that other prelates would be more worthy of it, yet I will not decline the office you so kindly request me to accept; and, God being my helper, will do my best that the peace, honour, and high tone of the University may not suffer under my presidency. I hope that all will unite with me, and, sinking private interests, aim at the general welfare. I send a letter appointing Master Attwater to act as my commissary.

1500. Cupienti mihi hos multos dies, celeberrime cetus, litteris vestris amore et gracia erga me refertissimis responsoriam transmittere epistolunculam, per incessantes in tutandis innocencium causis occupaciones, perque deliberacionem in re maxime tam ardua maturam, haud[1] hercule licuit. Ocii tamen paululum jamjam nactus, ne merito ingratitudinis vitio incuser, vos hisce litteris nostri hac in re instituti certiores efficere decrevi: quorum humanitatem in me meosque vehementer amplector ac liberalitatem maximi quidem facio; quippe me, inter Anglie colendos antistites indignissimum, ad vestre clarissime achademie rempublicam agendam fovendamque unanimi, ut ad me scribitis, assensu in patronum delegistis. Qua in re, licet eo cancellariatus honore me longe digniorem ac prestantiorem fungi deceat, petitionibus vestris humanissimis haud ibo infitias; verum regio precepto haud paucorumque clarissimorum virorum consilio atque vestris morem gero desideriis. Et quoniam in calce litterarum vestrarum me ad id muneris dignitatisve excipiendum, ut vestris utar verbis, subnixius imploratis, accipio equidem; ingentes vestre et humanitati et liberalitati agens gracias, maximas, si quando dabitur facultas, relaturus. Enitarque, Deo duce, id mea pro virili efficere, quod nostre celeberrime matri achademie pacis, honoris, ac virtutis accessioni futurum sit. Itaque vos, litteratissimi viri, vehementer hortor, obsecro, ut id una mecum curetis. Haud velim hercule quemquam vestrum propriis tantum studere commodis et honoribus, sed publicam curare utilitatem; siquidem civitas unaqueque, dum private consulit utilitati, quid patrie conducit nihil pensi habet. Vos igitur, viri summatissimi, novitiorum tirunculorumque animos ad studendum virtutesque exercendas re, verbo, ac operibus vestris istic augeatis queso. Preterea venerabili viro, magistro W. Attwater, sacre legis interpreti, cui, per viros fidedignos, tum ob merita tumque ob industriam suam plurimum apud nos commendato, vices nostras hac in re commisimus; litteras commissorias eidem, pro bono publico istic nostra in absentia regendo, tutando fovendoque, transmittentes; et non minus ac nobis, in singulis quibusque rebus suum spectantibus ad officium adminiculo[2] sitis velim. Valete.

497.

Ad dominum Cancellarium.

Never have we been more fortunate in having the most eminent men, as Chancellors of this University, than we are at this time; for there has never been one more able than yourself to direct us, and maintain our

[1] *hul hercule* MS.; but see *haud velim hercule* infra. [2] *adminiculos* MS.

privileges. We hope too that we shall be found able to second your efforts, and that the education, for which Oxford was formerly famous, will be more excellent than ever under your rule. When, therefore, you have taken the oath required by our statutes, enter, we beg you, upon the active and loving discharge of the duties of your office.

Si nos ulla fortune nostre felicitas oblectare unquam posset, magnifice presul, quod precipuos viros et eosdem maximos huic nostro gignasio gubernatores olim pretulimus; qui et rempublicam nostram semper bene prudenter gessere et eam pro viribus satis auxerunt; quam hodie gloriam nostram pluris faciemus, quam felicitatem nostram admirabimur, cum te nobis preceptorem et magnificum patronem nacti, qui non secus quam qui optime gessit hanc nostram rempublicam gubernare potest, nec aliter quam qui opulentissime auxit addere quidem illi copiose potest, et illius privilegiis cum libertatibus maxima virtute adesse! Speramus haud dubie, magnifice presul, te nobis et private patrie nostre natum esse ut prosis, et nos item tue dignitati genitos esse, ut tam celebrem Anglie Universitatem per nos in tuam suscepisse tutelam[1] gratuleris. Que, si antea et virtute et bonis artibus florebat—florebat autem uberius—nunc tantas virtutes cum usuris excercere confidit, eum jam dignissimum antistitem presidem sibi consecuta, qui, omni virtute numerosus, bonas litteras amplectitur et valde amat. Tene igitur felix collatam tibi achademiam, humanissime presul, et post datum ei jusjurandum, quod semper tuis patribus hanc dignitatem ascensuris administratum est,—sic enim leges nostre instituerunt—utere, rege, ama; fieri quippe non potest ut tuo in nos egregio amori non vehementer respondeamus. Hortamur te maxime tandem, optime presul, ut hoc jusjurandum tua gracia exhibeat magistro Johanni Reede, serenissimi principis capellano, et magistro Johanni Dunham, sacre theologie bachulariis. 1500.

Testimoniales littere pro vectore. Fol. 183 a.

There has been lately a lack of trusty carriers to convey letters and other property of our scholars; and we have endeavoured to supply the need, that there may not be a recurrence of the troubles caused by the carelessness of John Richardson, whom we have deprived of the office. Having confidence in his diligence, honesty, and care, we have appointed Christopher Rothemel in his room.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis, &c. Animadvertentes diligenter paucos his diebus vectores fuisse, qui scolasticorum hujus nostre Universitatis aliquas res fideli industria traducerent, curavimus 1500.

[1] *tutulam* MS.

magnopere tantis eorum incommodis jam tandem prudenter occurrere; ne ingravescente hoc malo majora inde pericula nostris scolasticis ex septentrione natis aliquando fortasse secutura sint, quemadmodum nuper ex incuria et insigni negligentia[1] Joannis Richardson, uti ex fidissimis viris accepimus, evenit: propter quod non immerito eum hoc tabellionatus aut vectoris publici officio privavimus; et confisi vehementer de magna diligentia, fide, securitate Christoferi Rothemel, eidem illud officium jam proxime commisimus et concessimus, ut exerceat et eo officio utatur secundum modum vectoribus portandi consuetum. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus senatus nostri sigillum publicum apponi fecimus. *Datum vicesimo tercio Januarii.*

498.

Ad Doctorem Barnys.

No bond of affection is more enduring than that which knits together those who have long lived in the same society and pursued the same studies. Natural love grows between them, and they seem as real brothers. With this thought continually in our minds, we cannot, with any regard to our feelings of affection and respect, suffer the close connexion formerly existing between us to be severed. We offer you, therefore, the chair of Civil Law, and though it be no great dignity, we hope you will accept it, and make it the means of renewing our old friendship, interrupted by your long residence abroad.

1500. Non major, ut sepe, gracia nec tenacior[2] amoris nervus apud aliquod hominum genus contrahi potest quam inter eos viros contexitur, qui mutuo sese cum[3] moribus tum cohabitatione familiariter usi magnam sue vite partem una consumpsere, et in uno eodemque gignasio simul olim litteras exercuere. Referunt enim mutuas sibi majori ex parte gracias, amores atque ornamenta, et ita sese complectuntur ut non alium ac natalem arbitrentur iniisse amorem, tanquam uno ex alvo lapsi ac profusi; quem quam sit difficile ex hominum animis pellere, postea quam se impressit, nemo lucidius te callet. Quod jam nobis crebro volventibus, gracia, qua in te virum doctissimum fungimur, et singularis amor, quo te magna autoritate complectimur, et humanitas nostra, qua maxima in te uti cupimus, haud bene decenter patitur immemores nos esse tui; vel benevolentiam, que magna tecum nobis olim fuit, extinctam deletamque videre. Est plane execranda hominum miseria vetustioris necessitudinis oblivisci velle, et amicum eum rejicere, quem non parum ei profuturum confidit. Tibi ergo, celeberrime doctor, qui magna temporis intercapedine nobis apud exteras gentes abfuisti,

[1] *negligen* MS. [2] *tenatior* ib. [3] *tum . . . cum* ib.

unde non parvam scienciam retulisti, tuam amicitiam et eam tamdiu intermissam reconciliaturi, eam sedem Oxonie cum dignitate impartimur, quam tui majores, Justiniane[1] legis maximi professores, cum summa gloria hic gentium conscenderunt. Quod munus etsi parvum, tuo tamen honori commodissimum, speramus equo te animo acceptaturum; quam rem ut in nostra cohortatione facias omni te voluntate invitamus. *Burgeys.*

Acquittance of E. Hunt, widow of the Stationer of the University.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos Willelmum, Dei[2] gracia Lincolniensem episcopum, Universitatis Oxonie Cancellarium, magistrum Edwardum Darbe et magistrum Thomam Claydon, ejusdem Universitatis procuratores, et universum cetum regentium in eadem remisisse, relaxasse et omnino, pro nobis et successoribus nostris, in perpetuum quietem clamasse Emote Hunt, nuper relicte Thome Hunt, stationarii Universitatis predicte, proxime defuncti, omnimodas actiones reales et personales, quas versus eam habuimus, habemus, seu quovismodo habere poterimus ratione bonorum, cautionum, seu quarumlibet aliarum rerum, que et quas predictus Thomas exponendi seu vendendi causa a custodibus cistarum Universitatis accepit et in manu tenebat; que quidem bona predicte Emote commissa sunt post mortem antedicti Thome. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum commune presentibus apponi fecimus: *quartodecimo Marcii, anno Henrici septimi sextodecimo.* 1500.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

VICESIMO tercio Marcii[3] sigillata est acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxonie sub hac forma, '*Noverint universi per presentes nos, W. Smythe, Dei gracia Lincolniensem episcopum*[4], *Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, recepisse et habuisse die confectionis presentium de Abbate et conventu de Ensham quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, de quibus fatemur nos fore solutos, &c.*' 1500.

499.

Ad matrem regiam. Fol. 183 b.

We feel no little pleasure in seeing every day the good effect on our moral and intellectual training here produced by your gracious benefaction; and we are the more sensible of your goodness to-day in your

[1] *Justiane* MS. [2] *gracia* omitted in MS. [3] W. Smythe, Bishop of Lincoln, was elected Chancellor vice J. Morton who died in September 1500, thus the date of this and the preceding articles is ascertained. [4] *Episcopum magistrum* MS.

permitting us to choose a successor to the lecturer in theology, who has recently resigned. We have chosen Master J. Roper, who has been with difficulty persuaded by the Bishop of Lincoln and our own earnest representations to leave the place of lecturer at Magdalen College, where he has for several years discharged his duties with the greatest care.

1500. SERENISSIME principi et magnificentissime domine, domine nostre singulari, domine regie matri Cancellarius Universitatis Oxoniensis omnisque[1] regentium cetus in eadem cum honore salutem plurimam dicit. Gavisi nonnihil crebro sumus, spectatissima princeps, eo vos gracioso instituto et singulari animo in nostram Universitatem esse, ut cum litteris tum virtutibus satis illi quotidie gratiam vestram profuturam conspiciamus. Sed major gloria nos hodie ampliorque felicitas habet, quod eam racionem ad hoc gymnasium nostrum vestra celsitudo habuerit, ut, orbatis jam nobis sua sponte proximo sanctissimarum lectionum preceptore, ad novum nostris arbitriis nostrisque sentenciis preficiendum potestatem nobis mature concesserit. Est enim haud parvum nobis argumentum nove hujus vestre constitucionis et roboris et firmamenti precipui. Quare non inferiores quam ei, qui maximas de republica nostra benemeritus est gracias, semper vestre dignitati debemus. Allatis igitur ad nos proxime codicillis vestris, omnia pro virili curabamus que tantis votis integerrime responderent; et demum hoc legendi onus in virum litteratissimum atque omnium scienciarum doctissimum, magistrum J. Roper, sacre theologie professorem, quem nedum optimis disciplinis sed et summis virtutibus nitidissimum predicare licet, una omnium sentencia conjecimus. Is autem in Magdalenensi contubernio nonnullos annos in publicis theologie lectionibus sese curiosissime exercuit; neque ex eo loco se bene-libenter dimovisset, ubi perpetuus ei comparatus est victus, nisi multa prece reverendissimi patris, domini Lincolniensis episcopi, aliqua ex parte impulsus, et nostra cohortatione[2] magnopere rogatus fuisset. Victus tamen undique precibus est rem se aggressurum diligenter pollicitus, confiditque vehementer se apud maximam dignitatem vestram graciosum fore. Et bene valeat, &c.

500.

Ad Episcopum Roffensem.

We always fly to you in any difficulties that may beset us, and now entreat your advice in the following case. The object of all our privileges is, as you know, to enable us to pursue our studies in peace; and to this

[1] *omnes* MS. [2] *ex cohortatione*; *ex* erased in MS.

end are those especially directed, which vest the determination of all causes in our Chancellor. Now one, Master Greke, long a member of Lincoln College, having committed suicide, we consider that some of his effects, which are kept in that College for pious uses, belong to our Chancellor. But a letter has come from the King to the Head of the College, Master Banks, straitly commanding him to deliver the said effects to the King's Almoner, or, in default thereof, to appear in person in Court, and show cause wherefore he detains the same. Whichsoever course he adopts there is a difficulty. If he surrenders the goods he will violate his oath to maintain the statutes; if he obeys the summons there will be great dissatisfaction among our scholars. We pray you, therefore, advise us what to do.

QUUM in te, antistes sanctissime, nostra pene totius reipublice **1500.**
Oxoniensis spes fuerit posita et ad quem solum confugiendum ire arbitramur, quum aliquid dubii nostros animos aut frangere aut molestare visum fuerit, non possumus certe hac una in re tuam inclitam dominationem abundantius non rogare rem nostram Oxoniensem consilio auxilioque tuo juvare. Intelligis quippe non obscure, quanta erga gymnasium nostrum Oxoniense munimenta atque indulta liberalissima a sancte memorie illustrissimis hujus nostri imperii regibus consecuti sumus; et id maxime ut quotidie liberalibus artibus sacrisque litteris, que Christiane fidei fortissimo adjumento sunt, dediti liberius vacare possint. In quorum certe nonnullis declarari nobis videtur, omnem causam omnem denique actionem ad auctoritatem et dignitatem Cancellarii pertinere. Propterea quidem certa bona cujusdam fratris nostri, magistri Greke—qui seipsum jamdudum miserabili morte interemerat, qui et in Lincolniensi familia multos annos hospitio receptus, ubi dicta bona servantur ad pias largitiones—Cancellario pertinere arbitramur. Quod tamen ne fiat, intercedunt littere a celsitudine regis date ad magistrum Thomam Banks, predicti contubernii prepositum, accuratissime jubentes quod vel prefata bona ad manus domini elemosinarii tradi curaret, vel infra sex dies post acceptas litteras aulam regiam viseret, ostensurus si quam habeat hujusce detentionis honestam causam [1]. Horum tamen duorum utrum satius facere deberet non parum ambigebat. Si primum, timet consciencie sue; si secundum, timet ne ex eo solo scholasticis sequeretur non parva intranquillitas. Consuluit ergo, ut prudentis viri erat, achademie nostre majores sapientioresque. Ubi ex omnium plena consultatione **Fol. 184 a.**
nil maturius occurrebat, quam quod tuam dignitatem litteris nostris salutaremus. Rogamus te igitur eciam atque eciam, ut harum portitori consilium tuum atque sapienciam facias non deesse. Et quicquid hac

[1] *habeat* here repeated in MS.

in re tua moderatio faciendum esse putaverit, id ipsum omnes nos benigno animo feremus. Et hac re nihil gratius, nihil jucundius efficere poteris. *Quarto Idus Julias.* Vale.

501.

To Prince Arthur[1].

It is, we well know, the duty of all under authority to obey their superiors; but your patronage of letters, and proficiency therein, supply us with a higher motive for compliance with your wishes. Be assured, then, that it would be the greatest pleasure to us to have an opportunity of showing our loyal obedience. But the terrible and deadly pestilence has this year attacked us with such fury, that those responsible for authority have abandoned their place; and we, who abide here still, are imprisoned within our walls. We would not blame those who have thus deserted us; but we appeal to that good sense, which guides all your conduct, when we tell you that under these difficulties, aggravated moreover by the circumstance that it is now vacation time here, it is not possible for us to hold any elections; and entreat you to accept our will for the deed.

1500. CLEMENTISSIMO mansuetissimoque principi, Arthuro, Oxonienses scolastici salutes, quas debent maximas, dicunt. Etsi recte noverimus, dignissime princeps, omnium subditorum officium esse ut majoribus suis studiose semper obtemperent, nobis tamen tibi tuisque prestantissimis desideriis obsequendi altior quedam videtur tributa ratio, si quidem tam mirifice omnium bonarum artium studia non nutris solum, sed ipse amplecteris atque calles, ut sis et universe discipline decus et lumen et viris studentibus tutissimum refugium. Quamobrem firmissime tibi, optime princeps, persuadeas nichil vel jocundius nobis vel optatius posse accidere, quam aliquod hujuscemodi argumentum oblatum ire, quo nostram erga te fidem et pietatem liquide dulcideque perspicias. Ceterum—quod sine nostro magno dolore non dicimus—ferox ille et immanis[2] pestifer morbus ita atrociter hoc anno Oxoniensem achademiam tuam non obsedit solum sed invasit, ut qui tuerentur rem ipsam publicam metu ipsius impii hostis longissime fugerint. Quo certe fit ut ipsi nos, qui in acerbissima captivitate pauci relinquimur, etsi vehementer cupiamus morem tuis honestissimis optatis gerere, tamen nec in superiores absentes nostros ullis videamur contumeliis uti, neque prestare possimus[3] neque efficere ut res pro sentencia nostra succedat. Accedit preterea ad hanc nostram imbecillitatem et impotenciam alius adversatissimus inopportunitatis casus,

[1] This letter should come after that by the Prince, numbered 507 (p. 666), being obviously an answer to it. [2] *inanis* MS. [3] *possumus* ib.

quod scilicet ille studii vacationes agantur, quibus nullas omnino liceat electiones celebrare. Quapropter, benignissime princeps, cum perspicue videris nos tibi in hac causa nequaquam pro nostra voluntate gratificari posse, non rogare non possumus liberalissimam benignitatem tuam ut, non ea que a nobis factitata sunt, sed animum factitandi pensare velis; id quod minime desperamus te facturum esse, quandoquidem eo ingenio constructus sis [ut][1] nichil vel facias vel loquaris unquam in quo tibi non proposueris rationem ducem. Et ita feliciter valeas, omnium principum istiusmodi etatis longe princeps. *Ex Oxoniensi gymnasio, quintodecimo Kalendas Septembres.*

502.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

No proof was required to convince us of the very great interest you take in our affairs; yet your letter cannot be considered unnecessary, for it shows how you neglect no occasion, on which your counsel can assist our more slender faculties, and promote our welfare. By this you are doing the part of a good ruler; and, being sure that you will recommend only what will be to our advantage, we shall follow your advice to the best of our ability; and will do nothing hastily, nor hold any election without your advice first being sought. We have nothing further to add, except that we beseech you to continue your gracious favour to us, and to assure you of our desire to do what is pleasing to you and serviceable to your interests.

Observandissimo Lincolniensis sedis episcopo, meritissimoque[2] 1500.
studentium Oxoniis presidi, regentium contio immortales salutes. Etsi nobis, pientissime presul, nichil unquam certius extiterit quam quod immensa quadam et incredibili benevolencia rem nostram publicam amplecteris, tamen non inanes nec frustra tue littere delate sunt, siquidem copiosissime et apertissime indices fuerant, quod nichilo pretermittis nostris consulere[3] tenuitatibus, quod nobis vel glorie vel utilitati putes. Sane facis [quod][4] ad optimum quemquam prefectum attinet. Quo uno facto tete pretura dignissimum ostendis. Quare, cum a sanctissima paternitate tua nihil videatur esse persuasum, quod nostre reipublice non esset amplissimo futurum commodo, curabimus pro mediocritate nostrarum virium ut prudentissimis tuis consiliis hereamus. Nichil enim faciemus precipitosi, nec quicquam erit electionis tua veneratione inconsulta. Aggressus es enim in nos ita semper

[1] *ut* omitted in MS. [2] *meretissimo* MS. [3] *consulure* ib. [4] *quod* omitted in MS.

pius et mansuetus, ut cui potius obsequeremur habemus neminem. Reliquum est ut rogemus benignitatem tuam ut, quemadmodum fisi sumus, ita pro amplissima et ingenuissima mente tua perpetuo nos, ut facis, et foveas et tuearis et defendas. Nosque bona fide pollicemur tibi, si nostra aut industria aut opera tue dignitati possit esse usui, poteris eam peculiari quodam jure tuo et mancipare et dedicare. Valeasque, sanctissime noster preses in Domino. *Ex Oxoniensi ludo, quintodecimo Kalendas Septembres.*

503.

Fol. 184 b. **Ad Doctorem Mayow regis elemosinarium dignissimum.**

We rejoice in the influence you possess both with the more distinguished members of this University and with the King, and the more so because you were from your childhood reared by our common mother. Since it is the saying of a philosopher, you know that parents love their children more than their children love them; yet children honour and respect their parents; and this duty you discharge towards your mother the University by every means in your power; supplementing, moreover, from your own purse the narrow means of our scholars. Suffer not, then, we entreat you, our mother, old and infirm, to perish entirely, as we fear she must if you do not supply, and that strongly, the proper remedy. A disaster has occurred. One of our members, Master Greke, has drowned himself, and our Chancellor claims his effects—which lie at Lincoln College—to apply the same to pious uses. But you also, whose influence is powerful both among us and at Court, claim the said effects. We trust your tried friendship to do what is best for us, but we hope you will decide in our favour; or, at least, suffer the matter to drop.

1500. Quotiens in mentem nostram venit, vir prestantissime, quanta auctoritate et dignitate habearis, non solum inter nostre Oxoniensis reipublice majores et graviores verum etiam apud celsitudinem regie majestatis, non possumus mediocriter gaudere; presertim cum e matris nostre cunabulis in tam prestantem virum sis profectus. Tuam quippe amplitudinem latere non arbitramur—quoniam philosophi sentencia est—majorem in modum parentum in filios, quam contra filiorum in parentes, vim amoris flagrare. Non possunt tamen filii parentum omnino oblivisci, immo potius venerari, adornare et colere; quod tua dignitas omni cum pietate facit, nihil eorum que ad honorem matris pertineant aliquando omittens; et, quod amplius est, fratrum tuorum—scolasticos intelligimus—pecuniarum difficultatem tuis munificentiis contendis resarcire. Cures igitur obsecramus, vir preclarissime,

matris nostre Oxonie rempublicam jam senescentem et prope ruituram —quod et potes valentissime—omnino non interire; quod fieri timemus, nisi ipse ejusdem matris nostre incredibili languori mederi non imbecilliter studueris, et maxime in re de qua jam sermo habendus est. Ex infelici sydere, non ignoras, accessit ut quidam ex consociis nostris, magister Greke, sese precipitem in aqua miserrime daret, ubi, ut aiunt, ab hoc seculo absumptus est. Cujus nonnullum suppellectile in collegio Lincolniensi, ubi ipsum se hospitio diu[1] receperat, adhuc restat; quod Cancellarius noster, nostrorum functus privilegio statutorum, distringendum[2] et ad pia opera suo pro arbitrio dispertiendum[2] esse existimat. At tua prestantia ratione muneris elemosynarii ad te eadem pertinere dijudicat; in utraque enim republica, et regia et nostra, non exigue polles, ut rem istam, ut libet, pertractare possis. Facias ergo quod tua inveterata bonitas equius putaverit esse faciendum, modo ut integerrimam rempublicam nostram, quantum possis in hac causa, tueri cures atque observare; saltem, si tua prudentia eandem rem ad nos aliquo jure spectare putaverit, sin minus dormire causam nostram jubeas omnino te iterum atque iterum rogamus. *Datum, &c., quarto Idus Julii.*

504.

By the King's moder.

RIGHT reverende ffader in god, right trusty and welbelovyd and trusty and welbelovyd, we grete you wele; And this present day have recevyd your right kinde lettres and lovinge tokins by oure welbeloved Thomas Pantre, oon of your bedells; for the whiche we thank you in owre harty wise; Wherby we perceyve ye have electe and chosen oon m. Rooper, doctor of divinite, to rede owre lecture there; whereof we be right gladde, and trust wt godd's mercy it shalbe to the greate honour and weal of your said Universite; aswele to thyncrease of vertu as lernyng off Students wt in the same, whiche we right specially tender, and shalbe gladde to further at altymes to the best we can. Yeven under owre Signett at the manowre of Bukeden, the first day of Juyn. **1500.**

505.

By the Kyng.

Fol. 185 a.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd, we grete you wele; And, where we be enformed that the Rowme of gentilman Bedyll for divinite wtyn that oure Universyte, by the decesse of Henry Mochegood, is now voide and in youre gyfte and dispositions; we, tendryng the weale and **1501.**

[1] *se diu* MS. [2] *distringenda, dispertienda* MS.

preferrement of oure welbelovyd John Preton, servant unto oure trusty and ryght welbelovyd clerke and Cowncellar, Maister Rychard Mayou, our Almoigner, desyre and pray you that, at the contemplacion of thies oure lettres, ye wyll have hym to the sayd Rowme of Bedell before any other especially recommended and admitted; as oure verray truste is yn you: Wherby ye schall do unto us right singuler pleasure, with deserving oure especial thancks. Yeven under oure signet at oure manour off Rychemont, the ffyrste day off October.

506.

By the Quene.

1500. Trusty and welbelovyd, we grete you wele; and, where we be enformed that the rome of gentylman bedyll for divinitee, by the decesse of Henry Mochegood, is now voyde and yn youre gyfte and dysposition; we, tendring te weal and preferrement of oure welbelovyd John Preton, servant un to oure trusty and right welbelovyd Maister Rychard Mayou, oon of my lordys counsaillours and aulmongner, Desyre and pray you that, at the contemplation of thies our lettres, ye wyll have hym to the sayd Rowme of Bedelle be fore any other admitted; As oure verray trust is yn you: Wherby ye schall deserve oure especial thancks. Yeven under oure signet at my lordys manor of Rychemount, the xxviii^th^ day of Septembre.

507.

By the Prince.

1500. Trusty and right welbelovyd, we grete you wele, and be credibli enformed that the rome of gentleman Bedell of divinite w^t^in the Universyte ther is now voide and yn youre disposition by the dethe of Henry Mochegood late occupyyng the same, Whos soule god pardon. We, havyng tendre respecte to the good dysposition that oure full welbelovyd servant, John Stanley, is off, and also consideryng his true service un to us heretofore doon, for the whyche and other his merits we have hym in oure entire favour and wold be gladde of his furtherance and provityon, Desyre you therfore in oure affectuouse wyse to graunt youre good wylls and myndys for oure sayd servaunt to be
l. 185 b. electe and admitted to the sayd Rome afore any other; ascertenyng you we have instanced oure Ryght trusty and entierli welbelovyd Counsaillour the byschypp of Lincoln, president of oure counsail and chauncelier of the said Universite, to graunt his good wylle therunto;

and so hath he done; ayenst the whyche we truste ye wyll nott gretely be; the rather att the contemplation of thies oure lettres. Wherby ye schall not oonli be provided of a sadde and substancyall honeste person to occupye that rome, butt also do a thing of great plesure un to us, whyche we schall nott forgete butt so remembre hereafter, in any youre pursutes to be unto us made, as ye schall thincke youre towardnesse in this behalfe well employed. Yeven under our signett att the maner of Beaudeley, the xiith day of this Auguste.

508.

By the Prince.

RYGȜT trusty and welbelovyd, we grete you wele; and where not long tyme passed, by oure lettres to you addressyd, we instanced and desyryd you for the graunt and youre good wyllys of the office and Rome of gentilman bedell of divinite w^{t}-in the universite ther unto oure full welbelovyd servaunt John Standley, and be now enformed that in breve tyme ye shall procede to thelection of some person to be thougȜt convenient for ye same; we desyre and hertyly pray you eftsons that, havyng consideracion to theffects of oure othir lettres to you directyd in that behaffe, it may like you to have oure said servaunt recommended un to the said Rome and office tofore any other; the rather for that it is the first thing we have desired of you for any servaunt of ours; wherin ye schall not oonli do unto us rigȜth singuler pleaser, deservyng oure especial thancks, but also be provydyd of a sadde and substanciall person toccupie that Rome, as we verely trust. Yeven under oure signet at the monastery off Enesham, the vth day of october. 1500.

509.

By the Kinges moder.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd, we grete you wele; and understonde the Rowme of gentilman bedell in divinite w^{t}in youre universite is now voide by deceasse of your late office in the same; wherunto ye in breve tyme intende to electe soome honest and hable person. We specially tendering thonnoure and thincrease of lernyng in divinite, and be credybly enformed by the rigȜth reverent faþer in god, the bysschopp of Rochestre, and certain other whiche be verray lovers of the said faculte, that one Rychard Wotton is a righȜt hable and convenient person for the said office, Desire þerfore and pray you so to owe youre good favores unto hym as rather for oure sake he may be 1500. **Fol. 186 a.**

proferryd to the said Rome. Wherby ye schall not oonly do a thing for the grete honowre and weale of youre said universite but also unto us full Singuler plesur. Yeven under signet at the manour of Buckdoone, the xxiii day of Auguste.

510.

Ad matrem regis.

Cicero tells us that we ought to recompense most liberally those from whom we have received the greatest proof of affection. But it were indeed a shameful thing, if we were not ready to do anything, however difficult, for you, who, by the many and very great benefits you have conferred upon us, possess the strongest claim on our obedience. So it was, then, that, on receipt of your letter, we almost unanimously elected the candidate you recommended for the office of bedell in Divinity. In so doing, however, we have reason to fear that we have incurred the displeasure of the bishop of Lincoln, our Chancellor; we entreat you, therefore, to defend us if any trouble comes, for to support his anger will be beyond our strength.

1500. Que tanta vel ardua vel ambigua res erit, quam suasore te, maxima princeps, non libenter aggrediemur, tuis meritis iisdemque summis benefaciendi tibi concitati! Incusare nos admodum potuisti, quibus perpulchra abs te beneficia profecta sunt, nisi tuis optatis et precipue cohortacioni paruissemus. Turpe est—fateri licet—iis in amore omnifariam non respondere, a quibus ad singularem amorem provocamur, dum presertim a bonis legibus et equitate causa votumque non abhorreat. Placuit enim Ciceroni illud primum nostro in officio esse, ut ei plurimum tribuamus a quo plurimum diligamur. Cujus discipline genere nos uti humanitas cum ingenio impulit, fecitque ut tuis omnium humanissimis litteris, que preconis electionem[1] proxime tangebant, uno ferme animo omnes pareremus, cum tu, plus omnibus de republica nostra benemerita, virum et doctum et mansuetum et virtute clarum, Ricardum Wottone, nobis preficiendum offerres. Sed sunt qui vix erecto stant in nos animo quod rem ita confecimus, haud inde fortasse ignominiam et publici commodi periculum relaturi. Sic rumor his diebus percrebuit reverendissimum patrem Lincolniensem episcopum, Universitatis Cancellarium, cui nostra officia devovemus, ea in re nobis admodum succensere: cujus in nos animus, quem gratiosum olim tenebamus, si perseverat acerbior, onus nostris humeris longe impar conjecimus. Reliquum igitur est omni te cura imploremus, serenissima princeps, ut, sicut tuis in rebus fortiter justeque jam stetimus, sic

[1] *evectionem* MS.

pro nobis, si quid nos sinistri excruciari debeat, in magna propugnatione nostra facta tueare. Tu enim, unicum perfugium nostrum, omnium potes et animos facile et iras frangere. Vale, Christianissima princeps. *Datum in senatu nostro, Octobris sexto decimo. Burgeys.*

511.

Doctori Agarde.

Every man should labour for the weal of his country, and not to do so comes of the spirit of discord and leads to actual civil conflict. So too a wide divergence of opinion in the citizens weakens and ruins the authority of law. In you therefore, formerly one of us, we did not expect an opponent of our privileges; but we find that you have procured Joan Edgcombe to be cited to the Archbishop's court, when you ought to have brought the case to the Chancellor's court here. The effect of this procedure is to make our statutes worthless; and, by violating thereby your own oath, to render yourself guilty of perjury and liable to degradation, expulsion, excommunication and imprisonment. If you will take our advice you will withdraw the case from the court, and take proceedings in our Chancellor's court here, as soon as possible.

Omnes ad tutandam reipublice nostre salutem summopere niti 1501
debemus, reverende doctor, cujus si aliqua ex parte inimici evadamus, jam similes eorum efficimur qui sibi intestina bella concitant; quorum ex infando impetu et nequiori rabie commodi, salutis, et vite periculum cives expectant. Neque ad naufragium civitas propius accedit quam dum altero ex altero animo cives fuerint, et leges quassari atque labefactari incipiant. Cujus rei exemplum non ab re impresentiarum attulimus, quippe quum, precipuam de te, olim cive nostro, estimationem haberemus, ut nihil in nostrum gingnasium vel adversi vel molestiarum et nostrarum legum et privilegiorum jacture conficeres. Plane hiis diebus nobis apertum est te maxime in Universitatem nostram conjurasse, dum citacionem ab audientiarum curia procuraveris adversus Joannam Egcombe super defamacionis tue causa; quam in nostra Universitate, si statutis pareas, ut litem eo loci inchoatam, debueras solicite tractasse. Ubi enim litigiosa in causa, quocunque sit genere, scolaris nostre Universitatis altera pars erit, solum sibi judicem et litis arbitrum dominum Cancellarium habet. Cujus statuti enervationem si pre te feras, colende doctor, nedum intestini belli et periculi omnium auctor eris, sed et primus tue fidei inimicus, quod sceleratissimum erit, et degradationis [1], incarcerationis, bani-

[1] *degrationis* MS.

cionis, excommunicationis et perjurii penas secundum eam legem incurres. Quare, si quam apud te vim nostra cohortatio habere posset, tibi consulendum esse duximus, ut te ab hac curia quamprimum retrahas et causam tuam Oxonie persequare, ubi satis tibi justice administrari debet. Quod si nostram autoritatem spreveris, magnam nobis causam contra te agendi obtulisti. Expectamus tandem vehementer quid de re institueris. Vale.

512.

Fol. 186 b.

To the Bishop of Lincoln.

No one, howsoever favoured by fortune, is so secure that he can avoid yielding on occasion to men and to altered circumstances. History abounds in examples; and we have found ourselves no exception. We made every effort to comply with your wishes, but have failed to obtain the election of your candidate for the office of bedell. Nor need you be surprised that the person recommended by the King's mother—who has been so great a benefactress to us—was chosen by so large a majority. We trust your favour towards us will undergo no change for the worse, and will obey your commands in any thing else you may desire.

1500. Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino W., Dei gracia Lincolniensis sedis maximo antistiti, et Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellario dignissimo, &c. Nemo ex omnibus tam secunda unquam natus est fortuna, magnifice presul, qui non et tempori interdum et homini cedendum esse existimet. Quantus enim Romanus olim senatus fuit, cui cum magno impetu et animorum varietate nonnulli pro tempore non adversabantur, testis Cicero est; quem nec tempus interdum vincere, cum omni qua preditus est eloquentia et summa prudentia, ferebat: testis Pompeius, qui, quum invictissimus idemque humanissimus haberetur, nonnunquam sui voti jacturam perpessus est. Contestatur et Cesar ille magnus, qui, tametsi bello, virtute ingenioque Romanos imperatores longe antecelluit, ut casus interdum ferebat, vix sibi et suis conjunctissimis frugi fuit. Cujus rei jam nostris oculis exemplar ipsi perspicimus, qui dum magno robore niteremur ut tuis votis—id quod presto fieri decernebamus—responderemus, magno suffragiorum numero, cui nec pares eramus, a spe, ab instituto, ab opinione depulsi sumus. Nec mirum illud, quum serenissima princeps et domina, nobis gratiosissima et maxime de nobis benemerita domina, regis mater, omnes obtestaretur ut Ricardum preconem preficerent. Que tante tamque preclare rogationes fuere, quibus non parere nefas omnes ferme, quibus interesse erat, existimabant. Quare te satis

atque satis rogamus, piissime antistes, ut, quemadmodum cepisti in Oxoniensem senatum optimus idem singularis patronus esse, sic in tempora benevolentissimus ei proficiscare[1]: pollicemur enim dignitati tue et, tametsi hec tempora tuis votis non faveant, omni cura quicquid alias fieri jubebis bonis omnibus approbantibus perficiemus. *Burgeys.*

513.

To the King's Mother.

We are altogether unable to make a due return for your great goodness, . . .

INNOCENTISSIME omnium ac castissime principi regieque celsitatis genetrici pudicissime Oxonii studentes amplissimas salutes. Quotiens nobiscum, serenissima inclitissimaque domina, volvimus quam et de nobis et de nostra republica benemerita fueris, totiens videmur nobis tanto abs te beneficio affectos esse, ut, quid pro tam immensa benignitate tua persolverimus, neque habeamus in promptu aliquid, neque etiam possumus excogitare quicquam dignum: quippe que non solum ornatissimis preclarissimisque monumentis achademiam nostram[2] . . . 1500.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

TERTIO Decembris sigillata est acquietancia pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi, pro summa sedecim solidorum octo denariorum solvenda in festo S. Nicholai, sub modo et forma supra, '*Noverint universi*,' &c. 1500.

514.

To the Bishop of Rochester, and Dr. Mayow, the King's Almoner.

It would be far more agreeable to us to report to you our prosperity than the state of distress in which we find ourselves: but fortune's wheel has turned; and we think it wise to consult your wisdom as to the course we should adopt, to meet the unprecedented difficulties certain evil disposed persons bring upon us . . . . .

DOMINO Roffensi et regis elemosinario. 1501.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Ricardo, Dei gracia Roffensi episcopo, et celeberrimo viro magistro Ricardo Mayhow, domini regis elemosinario, Cancellarius Universitatis Oxonie,

[1] *proficiscere* MS. [2] The remainder is wanting in the MS.

&c. Etsi multo nobis suavius foret prosperitatem et felicem achademie nostre statum vobis precipuis Universitatis nostre patronis quam miserias et eversionem referre; tamen, quia sic fortuna tulit, ejus mutabilitatem secuti, quantis sollicitudinibus angimur, quibus hac tempestate miseriis quassamur, quibus molestiis fatigamur, vobis, quos colimus atque observamus, visum nobis recte esse exponeremus; ut, qui virtute, autoritate, et magna sapientia prestatis, aliquid nobis recti consilii mandetis, et modum tantas exiundi calamitates cogitetis atque exhibeatis. Sunt apud Oxoniense exercicium viri hiis diebus admodum facinorosi, qui adeo[1] rempublicam nostram disturbant ut majori in angustia et squalore—sic credimus—alias non fuerit[2] . . . .

515[3].

Fol. 187 a. **To the King.**

Not even to our first founder do we recognize a greater debt of gratitude than to you. He laid, indeed, the foundations, and they have endured until now; but it is to your gracious favour and most prudent management that we owe our preservation. So Cicero, whose wisdom without bloodshed saved his country, was deemed worthy of no less honour than was paid to Romulus. But wisdom and good laws must be followed and observed, and without this no state can endure, for civil discord places us in the power of our enemies. So it was with Italy under the emperor Zeno and with Rome at the time of Catiline's conspiracy. We thank you therefore for your approval of our measures taken to repress the disturbers of our peace, and under your protection we need fear no foes. If any contemn our authority their names shall be reported to you.

1501. Invictissimo principi nostro Henrico, &c. Nemini, vel primo nostre urbis conditori, concedimus, illustrissime Cesar, ut plus illi graciarum tribuamus quam vestre majestati jure debeamus. Nam etsi ille universi operis lapidem fundamentumque jecerit, quod nostram usque ad etatem bene feliciter stetit, vestra tamen celsitudo singulari quadam gracia et incredibili amore ne funditus deperiret, aut deteriori condicione res ejus essent, nonnunquam prudentissime et admirabili moderacione cavit; hac presertim tempestate, qua nonnullis et iisdem crebris rebellionum incursionibus agitata lassataque fuit. Non minorem plane graciam a Romanis imperatoribus et reliquis civibus benemereri

[1] *adeo dicti* MS. [2] The remainder is lacking in the MS. [3] Between this and the preceding letter is the commencement, in the usual form, of a patent letter of the University, '*Universis matris ecclesiae filiis*,' &c., but the letter itself is lacking altogether.

Cicero visus est, quod patriam ingenio, prudentia, industria, nec fuso quidem sanguine, maximis molestiis laxaverat, quam Romulus ille magnus, abs quo omnes atavo Romani profecti sunt, et magnam Rome partem suis fortunis egregie extruxerat. Magne hiis gracie semper habende sunt, qui prestantibus rebus exorsis instituunt, neque parciores reddende sunt qui incepta et salva et integra esse volunt et tutantur. Itaque fieri quomodo potest ut nostra achademia sua felicitate disciplina et precipuis virtutibus aliquamdiu staret, si nec paci nec vere amicitie nec statutis cives studerent? Nulla, sic arbitramur, tam preclara communitas est, que vel civilibus vel intestinis discordiis lacessita tutissima tandem evadat. Testis Italia est, quam sub Zenone, Romano principe, durius afflictam Gothi pene everterant. Testis est Roma, que Catelinaria conjuratione pene deleta erat. Sic nec nostra Universitas tuta unquam stare potest, si rebellibus et pacis inimicis, legibus infestis aliquamdiu agitata fuerit. Quales, si qui sint, ut puniremus, quod pro viribus aggredimur, vestra majestas litteris nuper precepit, et se nostra facta comprobaturam et eisdem affuturam Christianissime pollicebatur. Merito sana fide immortales gracias tante majestati habituri sumus; que causam, defensionem et tutelam nostram et suscipit et fovet; ut nec ausus quisquam sit privilegia, libertates, quibus Christianissimi nos principes et serenissima majestas vestra donavit, infringere, nec paci nec autoritati, uti speramus, contravenire. At si qui nostram auctoritatem rebelles aspernabuntur, eosdem vestre celsitudini denunciaturi sumus[1]. . . . . .

Acquittances of Osney and Eynsham Abbeys.

VICESIMO primo Junii sigillate sunt due acquietantie; una pro Abbate et conventu de Osney, pro viginti sex solidis octo denariis; altera pro Abbate et conventu de Eynsham, pro quinquaginta duobus solidis; modo et forma suprascriptis, '*Noverint universi*,' &c. 1502.

516.

To Sir Reginald Bray, Seneschal of the University.

We feel our great obligation to you for the good condition in which we find ourselves; so that we fly to you at once, whenever we are injured or molested. Since, then, your influence with the King is so great, and deservedly so, that you have but to ask and your desire is granted, we address you to-day, for in the multitude of our anxieties and cares we

[1] The remainder of this letter is lacking in the MS.

should be overwhelmed but for your aid. There are those who wantonly and thoughtlessly are ever assailing our privileges; and at this time one John Graye, having mortally wounded one of our proctor's servants, is now procuring that his case shall be tried in another Court; whereas the jurisdiction in such cases is specially reserved to you. We beg, therefore, that you will not permit our privileges to be thus violated.

1502. AD dominum Reginaldum Bray.

Maximo amplissimoque viro Oxoniensis achademie senescallo, integerrimo domino Reginaldo Braye, equiti aurato, magistrorum regentium non-regentiumque senatus omnis in eadem maximam plurimamque salutem dicit. Nos tibi plurimum vovere et debere fatemur, vir magnanime, cujus ope et auctoritate florentissimam nostram rempublicam omni seculo ornatam ampliatamque conspicimus; ad quem, tanquam ad portum tutissimum nos, vel lesi aliquave ex parte sauciati, in agendis omnibus confugimus. Quum igitur apud metuendissimum principem nostrum tibi liceat quantum libet—libet autem nichil quod non liceat—et quia te in nos omnes dies paratissimum prebes, ad tuam prestantiam unicam hac in re fugiendum esse duximus. Nostra Universitas, cum variarum rerum multitudine tum curarum pondere victa gravissimo, si tue dignitatis immortalis auctoritas non occurrerit, irresarcibilem jam proximo pollicetur[1] jacturam. Fecundatam namque illustrissimorum principum caris pignoribus et privilegiis petulanti quadam incuria sunt qui oppugnare non desistunt. A fidedignis enim maturius accepimus quendam Joannem Graye, hominem quippe satis sceleratum, causam sanguinis, qua te unum pro judice merito coleret et observaret, alieno coram judice inconsulte nimis ventulare[2]. Is namque pacem integerrimam adulteratus—ut plurimorum placet sentenciis—acti anni procuratoris servitori letale vulnus vel inflixit, vel aliqualem causam administravit; unde celebratum atque sancitum est apud nostros Christianissimos Anglorum Cesares, quorum memoria sempiternis seculis futura est, penam sanguinis te coram nostro protectore precipuo omnino versari debere. Quare fusis precibus lachrimisque tuas reverentias maxime exoramus, ut causam hanc tibi uni delegatove tuo commendas; nec sinas, petimus, nostra privilegia aliqua in parte contaminari. Quod si tua opera fieri posset, profitebimur profecto nos non minus tibi obnoxios esse, qui pene amissa recuperaveris, quam si ab initio eadem peperisses. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, Julii die sexto.*

[1] *policetur* MS. [2] *ventulari* ib.

517.

Ad dominum archipresulem Cantuariensem. Fol. 187 b.

Every adverse change of our fortunes is felt by us to be a public calamity, to be met with all our strength and vigilance. The labours and money lavished by those careful men, who built up and secured the fabric of our present position, are incalculable; and it were disgraceful if through negligence we should suffer its destruction, now threatened by the proceedings of one Alice Stow. This is a debtor, who—by whose malevolent ingenuity we know not—has procured letters of inhibition from your court. Such action, proceeding from you, our chief protector, filled us with amazement. To suffer it to pass without remonstrance would be a violation of our oaths and betrayal of our own cause; and we entreat you to extinguish at once this spark, which has been carefully kindled, lest it burst out into a conflagration.

Reverendissimo in Christo patri ac domino, domino Henrico, divina providentia Cantuariensi archiepiscopo tociusque Anglie primati meritissimo, &c. Quotiens nostra respublica seu fortune sevientis impetu seu adversitatis severe quid pertulerit, pater sanctissime, totiens maximis doloribus concutimur; et nos publicis periculis expositos esse profitemur. Pro cujus tamen tutanda libertate acrius summis vigiliis totisque humeris niti et insistere debemus. Nam quos labores subierunt, quos denique superbissimos thesauros effuderint hii frugi patres, qui pro publicis libertatibus et privilegiis, ut omnino inconcussa maneant, magnifice insudaverint, non facile est evolvere. Indignum igitur, facinusque perniciosissimum existimamus partas libertates, a Christianissimis Anglorum Cesaribus sanctissime stabilitas, nostris incuriis et desidiis labefactatum iri. Pensitamus enim sepissime, frequentique memoria evolvimus nostrum Oxoniense exercitium tum nullum fore, cum suas libertates aut eversas aut contaminatas esse intuebimur: quarum semper tuam integritatem expectamus et speramus propugnatricem futuram fore integerrimam. Decreverunt, imo ab eternis seculis sanxerunt metuendissimi principes nostre Universitatis Cancellarium suo in Oxoniensi foro judiciali lites, causas quascunque, earumdemque decisiones et examina equa lance librare debere. Apud quem vero, ubi semel agitate sunt, in eisdem solus judex censendus est. Proximis tamen hiis diebus quedam Alicia Stow, que multum alieni eris contraxerat—malis quorum adjuta ingeniis latet—breve quoddam inhibitorium litterasque citatorias, nostris plane tum legibus tum bonis privilegiis adversarias, abs tua clementia impetrari procuravit. Quas ubi recepimus plenaque contione perlegimus 1502.

obstupuit[1] sacrum omne collegium, vehementerque admirabatur senatus tantum patrem, tantum presulem, tantum denique patronum, cui Oxoniensis palestra plurimum deberet, suas libertates tam tetra tamque infesta peste afficere velle. Quibus revera consentire non potuimus, ni plurimum dissoluti et sancte fidei violatores judicaremur acerrimi. Unum igitur hoc vehementer obsecramus, ut[2] diligenter excitatam hanc favillam quamprimum extinguas; ne dum serpat latius —id quod valde timemus—periculosius flammescat in incendium. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, Octobris die quinto.*

518.

Littere responsales per dominum Archiepiscopum.

I quite understand your zeal in defence of your privileges, and the confidence you repose in my protection. The former I strongly approve, and, as to the latter, you shall not find me fall short of your expectations. What, indeed, could be nearer, and dearer than to have our filial duty appreciated by a most tender mother? As to the case you mention, you need not apprehend therein any design adverse to your privileges, for none can be more solicitous for their maintenance than myself; as you will see, if the case proceeds farther. I have however to defend the rights of my Ecclesiastical Court, and expect from you no conduct detrimental thereto. As to the consideration due to the poor widow, it needs not that I should remind men skilled as you in law both human and divine.

1502. HENRICUS, permissione divina Cantuariensis Archiepiscopus, tocius Anglie primas et apostolice sedis legatus, venerabili confratri nostro Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellario, necnon regentium et non-regentium celeberrimo collegio salutem. Accepimus, clarissimi viri, litteras publici gimnasii vestri; ex quibus utrumque, et studium vestrum in tuendis privilegiis vestris et simul quam spem de nobis ad propugnandam libertatem vestram concepistis, facile intelleximus. Quorum alterum magnopere laudamus, in altero non committemus ut frustra quicquam de nobis sperasse videamini; presertim in ea re qua nihil possit esse nobis antiquius. Quid enim vel gratius cuiquam sit vel antiquius quam de ea, quam benignissimam olim matrem senseris, pietatis etiam laudem velle querere. Quanquam itaque littere quedam

[1] *obstipuit* MS. [2] A marginal note, in a later hand, is as follows: 'Haec nota habetur in margine registri Curiae Cancellarii Oxon: anno 1576 illa ultima clausula, "*ut diligenter*" &c., usque ad datum, displicuit consilio domini Archiepiscopi.'

inhibitorie quorumdam suasu a cancellario nostro proxime emanarunt, nichil est quod vos magnopere sollicitet tanquam ita convelli a vobis libertatem vestram putetis. Quod profecto tantum abest ut minuisse quippiam velimus, ut etiam facile neminem majorum nostrorum fuisse arbitremur, qui eam magis augere studuerit. Id quod in hac ipsa causa facile intelligetis, si quis eam prosequi ulterius voluerit. Vestre vicissim equitatis fuerit nihil omnino tentare, quod in nostre Cantuariensis ecclesie cedat injuriam; quam nobis certe non minus sanctum fuerit propulsare quam vestra jura defendere. Nam quod ad pauperem viduam spectat, frustra profecto vobis vel viduitatem ejus vel paupertatem commendo; qui, cum omnis divini humanique juris sitis peritissimi, miseros non ignoratis omnium legum favore esse commendatos. *Datum in manerio nostro de Lamehithe, quinto idus Octobris.*

Henr. Cantuar.

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Fol. 188 a

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Willelmum Smyzthe, Dei gracia Lincolniensem Episcopum, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Hugonem Hawardyn et magistrum Johannem Matson, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Eynsham in comitatu Oxoniensi sedecim solidos octo denarios, pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati in festo S. Nicholai debita: De quibus quidem pecuniis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi signatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi octavo decimo, Novembris die tricesimo.* **1502.**

519.

Ad inceptorem Gamme.

Your hearty interest in our prosperity, shown lately in your discharge of the duties of proctor, as also in the general tenor of your life, has secured you a favourable character with us. We beg, then, that you will not decline from your hitherto laudable conduct. The office of the bedels is one of great importance and distinction; and we think your conduct has been such as to seriously affect their position, and has caused strife among our regent masters; some taking your side and some the other. We therefore affectionately advise, and hereby formally summon you to appear before us, eight days after sight of this letter, and answer the charges then to be made against you, in our congregation.

1502. PERITISSIMO viro, artis medice cultori eximio, magistro Johanni Gamme, &c. Ea semper de te percelebris apud nos claruit opinio, inceptor dignissime, nostram in rempublicam tantum te fervere ut pro ejus amplificanda gloria nullos unquam refutabis sudores. Proximis namque hiis diebus, in procuratoris gerenda auctoritate, vite moderationem, ingenii tui virtutem, litterarum non parvam eruditionem satis experti sumus. Laborasti enim et totis humeris insudaveras, ut nostra semper Universitas gloriosior evadat. Quare nobis hac tempestate ne te prebeas alieniorem petimus; sed, ut cepisti, in Oxoniensem senatum proficiscere amantissimus. Que volumus paucis accipies. Non te latet, vir acutissime, vetustioris apud evi viros preconum antehac multum valuisse preturam: quorum officia non tam nos omni seculo decoravere, quam nostre Universitati semper et ornamento et laudi fuere. Horum igitur tutari libertates propulsareque injurias nostri officii et religionis plurimum interesse visum est: quorum tamen juri et frugalitati tua prestantia huc loci plurimum adversata est. Es namque, quod penes venerandum litteratissimumque doctorem dominum Banke deposueras, non medioçrem inter regentes conflavit disceptationem. Sunt enim tuam qui probant causam, affirmantes tanto ere bedellis teneri te non debere; imo suadent litem secundum te dandam esse. Sunt preterea qui negant. Quare huc loci supersedimus multis ad amplius deliberandum interpositis induciis, hac de re nihil judicantes. Piis igitur exhortationibus te invitamus, et per sanctam Universitati datam fidem te monemus, primo, secundo, et tertio et peremptorie, quod, post has inspectas litteras, proxima octava luce, tibi nostro in senatu objiciendis responsurus, ad nos maturius fac accedas. Vale. *Datum in nostre congregacionis domo, Novembris die vicesimo octavo, anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo secundo.*

520.

To the right honorable master Joonys.

1502. RIGHTE honorable, we commaunde us unto you yn oure loving maner; and where as, By oure welbelovede brothir, M. Moores Gwynn, we be enformede of your tendre and faste lovyng mynde to your mother this universite off Oxforde, yn suche things as concernyȝthe bothe the weele off þis Universite ande weele off þe soule of our deere broþer master Thomas Baratt—whom oure Loorde assoile—by whom þis Universite shulde be grevously damagede, and þe last willys off fowndres off cheests yn the same for the releve off scolars greatlye brokyn, ne ware your tendre love as well to him as to us; we

yn o^r harty maner thanke you, praying you of contynuaunce. And as nowe we signifye unto you, by oure sayde broþ^er, of suche cautyons as restyȝth here yn diverse chestes, for money take off þ^e same to the use of the saiede master Barett; doing you farther knowlege that he was chargede w^t the staate of a cheeste, w^t other felows w^t him. And all suche cautyons as here remaynethe shalbe suerly reservede, and ben for you. Somme be insuffycyaunt, somme be suffycyaunt, as shall appeere. Ande, as towchynge þ^e state of his cheste, we truste to show you brevelye. þ^ere ys a full sadde doctor of divinite keping the same, a full faste lover of master Baratte. We be seche you ytt shall lyke you to se shortlye redemptyone off this cautyons, and do themm to be sette awaye. And o^r Lorde ever more gracyously preserve you. *Fromm Oxon, the xix^th day off ffebruarye.*

521.

Ad regiam matrem.

Fol. 188 b.

How great and unremitting has been your benevolent and watchful solicitude for our advancement, it were difficult to express; and if our former benefactors are constantly commemorated, surely never-ceasing thanks are due to you for your promise to endow a theological lecture here, and the fulfilment of that promise; for it makes us feel the truth of the adage 'bis dat qui cito.' We regret more than we can express that our acknowledgement is later than propriety and regard for our own interest would require; the truth is, however, that, when your letter was read, there was no one but was most willing to do as you desire in return for your benefaction. We commend, therefore, to your favour Doctor Roper, the bearer of this, who will lay our requests before you.

SERENISSIME principi ac domine magnificentissime, &c. Quantum innata illa vestra clementia, serenissima princeps, Oxoniensem achademiam, vestre dignitati deditissimam, non tueri solum sed et augere semper invigilaverit, plane facile evolvere non poterimus. Nam si illustrissimos principes et grandevioris evi patres nostra de republica optime benemeritos frequentius commemorabimus, tum facile videre licet, colendissima domina, vestram prestantiam non vulgares sed et immortales a nobis promeruisse gracias; que maxime ad Dei gloriam, litterarum non mediocrem profectum, et certe ad sempiternam vestre anime salutem, pro perpetuo stabilienda lectione theologica possessiones ultro pollicetur et donat. Unde satis ipsi experti sumus tantam dignitatem haud immemorem esse duplicem illis attribui[1] graciam, qui 1502.

[1] *attri* MS.; the latter half of the word is destroyed.

in pollicendo beneficio non solum liberales verum etiam in exhibendo paratissimi visi sunt. Quare nulla etas tam immemor, nulli tam ingrati cives, nostra sententia, usquam reperientur, qui vestram gloriam immortalitatis memoria non prosequantur. Sed incredibili quodam dolore angimur, celeberrima princeps, nos aliquantulo tardius quam aut decuit, aut nostre publice utilitates expostulaverant, tantis in nos beneficiis respondisse. Revera tamen, ubi senatui nostro ex vestris exemplaribus intellectum est, qualem pro tantis meritis vicissitudinem vestra clementia reposceret, nemo erat qui, ut decuit, tam preclaris votis satisfacere se paratissimum non polliceretur. Vestre igitur dignitati commendamus colendum virum, bonis litteris et virtutibus satis clarum, concivem nostrum, harum tabellionem, dominum doctorem Roper, sacre theologie professorem dignissimum; abs quo vestra prestantia que petimus et obsecramus plenius et maturius accipiet omnia. Nos interim preces officia et [que][1] possumus omnia tam reverendissime domine, tam divine matrone pollicemur, vovemus et dedicamus. Et optime valeat gratiosissima dominatio vestra. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, Marcii die vicesimo.*

522.

Ad regem.

Many have been the great and noble, who have proved their benevolence to us by splendid donations, but that you give towers above them all. It is, therefore, our unanimous desire to distinguish you above all our other benefactors in the expression of our gratitude, to convey to you our assent to all you say, and to beg you to carry out the design your piety has suggested. We should have written earlier to this effect, but that we thought you to be too much occupied in weightier matters to find time for a letter of this sort. We beg that you will ever defend this University, which you have so peculiarly marked by your favour, and which is devoted to your majesty.

52. Illustrissimo Christianissimoque principi, Henrico septimo, &c. Etsi multos habuerimus, magnificentissime rex, magnos et nobiles viros de Oxoniensi republica plurimum benemeritos; qui ut suam in nos exercerent benevolentiam, preclaris muneribus eandem Universitatem vestram illustrarunt; vestra tamen insignis munificentia, in unico liberalissimo dono eidem achademie vestre jam instituto, ita universa priscorum monumenta videtur antecellere ut maxima queque solent prestare minimis. Quamobrem, beneficentissime princeps, justissimum

[1] *quae* omitted in MS.

nobis omnibus visum est, ut vestre bonitati amplissime pre ceteris singulis benefactoribus nostris pro viribus studeamus gratiarum vices rependere; certioremque fieri vestram celsitudinem obsecramus, nos omnes non solum omnibus exemplarium vestrorum sententiis assensisse, verum etiam vehementer implorasse, ut quod tam divino nutu a vestra pietate profectum est, id perficere non dedignetur. Fecissemus majestatem vestram longe antehac votorum nostrorum consciam, nisi quod putavimus circa tam grandes ipsam fuisse versatam causas, ut nullam voluerat inter eas nostrarum litterarum habuisse rationem. Re nichilominus et factis divino mentis vestre instituto omnes unanimiter statim consensum prebuimus. Quare innatam illam clementiam vestram, benignissime princeps, rogamus et obsecrando imploramus, ut hanc rempublicam Oxoniensem, quam singulariter jam memoriali divino conatur augere, etiam eandem vobis deditissimam achademiam tueri et semper propugnare dignetur: protestamurque nos majestatis vestre perpetuos et sempiternos, ut decet, oratores. Et felicissime per omnes etates prosperetur amplissima celsitudo vestra, regum magnificentissime. *Ex vestro Oxoniensi gymnasio, tercio decimo Kalendas Aprilis.*

523.

To the Bishop of London. Fol. 189 a.

We have received no greater blessing from divine influence than that of having educated here so indefatigable a patron of the University as yourself; and your unfailing readiness to work in our behalf makes us bold to invite you now, in conjunction with the Bishop of Rochester, to decide upon the subject of the memorial proposed by the King. Our opinions here have been divided, but are now brought into harmony. The matter is however one we feel to be beyond our capacity; and, in committing it to you, we shall be content with whatever you may determine. The rehabilitation, too, of the Feenn Chest is urgent: we shall entirely lose large sums of money, unless your authority steps in to help us. These two matters are of the gravest importance to us and to your own great reputation; we pray you then, by all your previous kindness to us, let not your love grow cold.

Reverendo in Christo ac domino, domino Willelmo, Dei gracia 1502.
Londoniensi maximo presuli, &c. Nunquam potuit, piissime antistes, preclarius aut commodius nobis aspirasse celum, quam te virum peperisse, quem nostre reipublice precipuum patronum omnis nostra fatetur etas. Apud quem ea caritate et honore semper claruit Oxoniense exercitium, ut omnis labor pro ejus amplianda gloria susceptus

tante dignitati haud injucundus visus est. Quare hac tempestate ab tua prestantia id rogare non verebimur, quod publice utilitati apprime utile esse concepimus. Significamus igitur sanctum et perpetuis commendandum litteris invictissimi principis nostri esse institutum, magnifice presul, qui Oxoniensem senatum ad suam tam metuendam majestatem amandam, fovendam, observandamque mirifice invitat. Nititur enim preclarum sui nominis memoriale, quod nulla temporis vetustas hominum ex memoria abolere poterit, nostra in Universitate perpetuo stabilire. Qua in re senatorum vagi et dispertiti aliquando fuerunt animi, variisque ultro innitebantur sententiis. Verum tam dispersos animos, tam contraria vota in unam eandem cöegimus sententiam. Nos igitur, qui tanto ponderi non sufficimus, tue dignitati dominoque Ricardo Roffensi, dignissimo antistiti, qui egregie eruditi et varia multiplicique doctrina et consilio clari estis, rem omnem plane committimus; et que tanti patroni nostri gracia effecerint, ratificabimus omnia. Accedit et aliud, bone pastor, pro quo simul cum divino illo domino, Roffensi episcopo, sepius magnifice insudaveritis[1]. Stabilienda fundatio ciste de Feenn. Plane—sic credimus—perdite, adempte et penitus alienate a nobis tante sunt pecunie, nisi vestre dignitatis immortalis occurrat autoritas. Nihil revera est, reverende pater, quod nostre Universitatis amplitudinem vehementius illustrabit, quodve tui nominis gloriam profitebitur sempiterniorem, quam res ipse quas statim diximus. Quare per vetustiora vestre caritatis in nos vestigia, perque vestra maxima nostram erga rempublicam laudata merita, tantam paternitatem exoratam habemus, ut nil unquam apud eam frigescat quod nostre Universitati usui, glorie, aut ornamento esse posset. Et optime valeat vestra prestantissima dominatio. *Datum Oxonie, Marcii die vicesimo.*

524.

Ad dominum Roffensem.

Never have we been more sensible of your filial affection for us, which has always commanded our admiration, than at the present time: For, by sending Dr. Sawnders to speak to us in your name, you have awakened the interest of our members, always too indifferent to our corporate advantage. The effect of his address has been to unite our divided opinions; and no greater service could have been rendered than this. We have also to beg that you will obtain for us, from his executors, the money bequeathed by Hugh Feenn, which, but by your efforts and those of the bishop of London, we cannot hope to recover.

[1] *insidaveritis* MS.

AD dominum Roffensem. 1502.

Reverendo in Christo patri, &c. Quo honore, qua potius pietate et observantia nos tuos Oxonienses huc loci amplexus es, magnifice presul, nemo est qui non novit, admiratur et laudat. Es enim unus et certe precipuus patronus, qui ardenti caritate et integra diligentia pro nostra republica tuenda, ornanda et maxime[1] augenda horatim magnopere insudas. Cujus inexhauste benevolentie fontem etsi sepissime experti sumus, de eo tamen hac potissimum tempestate conjecturam nobis feceras manifestissimam; eo namque quod colendum virum, dominum doctorem Sawnders, hominem quippe bonis litteris et virtute percelebrem, ad tuos Oxonienses, suis in publicis commodis somnolentissimos, ejus viva voce tuo nomine aliquando excitandos transmiseras. Maximam revera a nobis reportasti gloriam. Quem vero ubi senatores publico in senatu attentius audiverant, olim tam sparsi animi, tam diversa suffragia statim in unam reconciliantur sententiam. Potuisti enim nobis nil fecisse illustrius, nam et publico usui plurimum consuluisti et nos tanto patri perpetuo devinctos comparasti. Quare te vigilantissimum hujus nostri negocii autorem nemo est qui non predicat. Sed et aliud est, reverende pater, in quo tua amplitudo nostre Universitati summe benefaciet; si pecunias, quas vir bone memorie Hugo Feenn nobis liberalius concesserat, ab executoribus impetraveris: quas, nisi in tue prestantie et reverendi in Christo patris ac domini, domini Willelmi, Londoniensis episcopi, maximo sudore, renumerare non poterimus. Nil profecto gracius aut prestantius Oxoniensibus efficere poterit tua dignitas. Quod ut facias instantius et instantissime imploramus. Et optime valeas, dignissime presul. *Ex Oxonia, Marcii die vicesimo.*

525.

Ad dominum Ricardum, Wintoniensem episcopum.

Your good offices, so frequently experienced, encourage us to ask a favour, which otherwise we should not venture to expect at your hands. We beg, therefore, that, since your influence with the King is so great and well deserved, you will tell him that his wishes have our hearty concurrence, and the unanimous approval of our congregation; and we farther solicit your advocacy with his majesty, that he may be ever favourably disposed towards us.

REVERENDO in Christo patri, &c. Tanta nostram in rempublicam 1502.
tua semper fuere merita, tot sudores, colendissime pater, ut, nisi tua singularis natura satis superque[2] satis nobis spectata foret, nichil

[1] *maxima* MS. [2] *supra* written over the line, MS.

unquam amplius petere contenderemus, quod tantam sanctitatem tuam ad novos usquam invitaret labores. Sed liberale tuum ingenium, cunctis prodesse semper vigilantissimum, non mediocriter nos suadet et hortatur, in hiis presertim que publice utilitati et saluti inserviunt, tam reverendum patrem feliciter pulsare. Duo igitur sunt, sanctissime pater, que vehementius obsecramus; Primum, ut invictissimo principi nostro, apud quem primus et conjunctissimus merito evasisti, significes nos suis votis maximo cum graciarum cumulo libentissime applausisse; suaque exemplaria, tuam per dignitatem ad nos transmissa, nostro
Fol. 189 b. publico in senatu unanimi omnium consensu jam comprobata esse. Id vero est quod secundo in loco obnixius imploramus; ut tua dignitas, in qua plurimum spei semper collocavimus, serenissimam majestatem regiam Oxoniensibus mansuetissimam semper conserves. Age, igitur, clementissime pater, ut quam nobis de te expectationem huc loci egregie concitasti, hanc in hiis perpulchris hujus nostri gymnasii agendis negociis non minori diligentia confirmes et ostendas. Qua in re non tam utilitati nostre quam glorie tue consuluisse videberis. Interim preces nostra et officia reverendissime paternitati tue perpetuo pollicemur et vovemus. Et ita in Christo valeas, colendissime presul, bonarum artium fons uberrime. *Datum Marcii die vicesimo.*

526.

Probatissimis viris, magistro Galfrido Simeon, capelle regie decano, et domino doctori Mayow, regis nostri elemosinario.

No greater joy felt the devout Simeon taking the Saviour in his arms, than we feel to-day in having reared two sons such as you: who evidently are able, from your exalted position, greatly to advance our welfare. Let the present occasion be no exception to your hitherto constant labours in our behalf, but endeavour yourselves that the memorial the King of his goodness designs, may not in its completion fall short of the high promise of its beginning.

1502. Non est usquam timoratus justus et senex ille Simeon pleniori profusus gaudio et letitia se Christum in ulnis cepisse, celeberrimi viri, quam hodierna luce vos suos alumnos olim nutrivisse letata est mater nostra Universitas: precipue cum vos eos in viros evolasse clare intueri licet, qui sue saluti plurimum consulere, et ejus amplitudinem magnopere illustrare poteritis. Quare hoc in tempore vestram tam prestantem matrem ne deserite, qui omnem superiorem vitam vestram in laboribus pro ejus salute magnanime exercuistis. Maxima serenis-

simi principis nostri erga nos sunt pietatis officia, colendi viri, qui nostram rempublicam perpetuo sui nominis memoriali ornare devotissime molitus est. Quare ad augmentum futuri nominis vestri plurimum accedere visum erit, si ejus clementissimum animum ad nostras communes utilitates jam incitatum magnifice acueritis, ut hoc tam clarum memoriale optimis, ut speramus, inchoatum auspitiis non nisi perfectissimum relinquat[1] . . . *Marcii die vicesimo datum.*

Acquittance of Eynsham Abbey.

Sigillate sunt acquietancie Abbatibus de Enysham et Osneye.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Willelmum Smyȝthe, Dei gracia Lincolniensem episcopum, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Hugonem Hawardyn et magistrum Johannem Matson, procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Enysham in comitatu Oxoniensi, quinquaginta duos solidos sterlingorum, pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati debita: De quibus quidem pecuniis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi sigillatas. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno regni regis Henrici septimi octodecimo, mensis vero Maii die undecimo.* 1502.

NOVERINT universi per presentes nos, Willelmum Smyȝthe, Dei gracia Lincolniensem episcopum, Universitatis Oxoniensis Cancellarium, magistrum Hugonem Hawardyn et magistrum Johannem Matson, procuratores, recepisse et habuisse, die confectionis presentium, de Abbate et conventu de Osneye in comitatu Oxoniensi, viginti sex solidos octo denarios, pro quadam annua pensione predicte Universitati debita: De quibus quidem pecuniis fatemur nos fore solutos, dictosque Abbatem et conventum inde acquietamus per presentes sigillo nostro communi sigillatas. *Datum anno regni regis Henrici septimi octodecimo, Maii die undecimo.* 1502.

527.

To the Bishop of Winchester.

It is with reluctance that we now appeal to you again, for we have always wished we could invite you rather to ease and rest than to turmoil and trouble. Alas! fortune will not have it so; for the University is now in such peril, that without speedy succour, great damage must ensue. The terrible sanguinary encounters would no doubt have driven away the

[1] Here the MS. breaks off abruptly, and the scribe adds '*perdidi copiam, ideo non scripsi plus.*'

moral and mental training hitherto the glory of this place, but for your timely aid and advice, which we have scrupulously followed. We have constantly insisted upon condign punishment of these turbulent enemies of our peace, some of whom we have cast into prison, while we have banished others. These latter, however, lurk in the adjacent villages, and from these retreats repeat their audacious attacks and threats of death to members of our congregation. We entreat you, therefore, by every motive which should actuate so good a man and so fast a friend, devise some means to suppress our foes and expel them from the neighbourhood of Oxford.

1503. Reverendo in Christo patri, domino Ricardo, Dei gracia Wintoniensi episcopo, &c. Studuimus non mediocriter, clementissime presul, et semper maxime optavimus nos illum videre diem quo tuam dignitatem ad ocia potius quam labores, ad requiem magis quam turbam aliquando invitaremus. Verum, quod sine dolore non referimus, fortune mutabilitas id non patitur, presertim hiis in diebus, quibus nostra Universitas illud in periculum pene adducta est, cui, si non dabitur frenum, plane, aperte videre licet quod non parvam inde est reportatura jacturam. Omni igitur spe salutis penitus orbata foret nostra respublica si eum te patronum sepissime experta non fuisset, qui suas res cum privatas tum publicas diligentius semper curaverat.
ol. 190 a. Nam Oxoniensis achademia, que bonis litteris, magna gloria, preclaris virtutibus olim floruerat, acerbis cladibus jam plena—sic credimus—funditus deperiisset, si cumulatus[1] ille tue benevolentie ardor, quem in eandem semper gessisti, mox tuis cum litteris non occurrisset; quibus revera nihil mandaveras quod pro viribus huc loci non aggressi sumus. Creberrimis namque instamus contionibus ut hii tam infesti pacis perturbatores dignas aliquando dent in corpore penas: quorum vero quosdam vinctos in carceribus conjecimus, quosdam enim exsules nostraque a privata patria pulsos esse promulgavimus. Sed, quod dolenter scribimus, in finitimis juxta nos oppidulis latitant, licentiusque quam par est sua temeraria utentes audacia Oxoniensibus stomachantur, senatorum sanguini, ut accepimus, se audentius insultaturos comminantur et mala malis superaddere nituntur. Quare te maxime obtestamur, per prudentiam qua nulli cedis, per caritatem qua cunctos exsuperas, perque illum amorem quem tum re tum consilio nostre Universitati semper sanctissime professus es, ut modum tecum excogites, quo eorum tam nefarii conatus tandem opprimantur nostrisque a confiniis longius propulsentur. Profitemurque omnes nihil huc loci esse quod tue a nobis tam benemerite clementie dedicatum paratissimumque non sit. Vale.

[1] *cumilatus* MS.

Testimonial letter for Mr. Richard Dudley[1]. Fol. 191 b.

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis, ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Universitatis Oxonie Cancellarius cetusque unanimis magistrorum regentium in eadem salutem. Quoniam et humana et divina incitamur lege, ut aliorum labores pensemus meritaque consideremus, ea semper nobis cura fuit ut non modo sceleratos perversosque homines vicio necnon dedecori maximo demus, et a nostra achademia penitus excludamus; verum etiam perdoctos studiososque homines benigno favore prosequamur, summo laudum preconio extollamus, efferamus erigamusque: nos itaque, considerantes tam logicis quam philosophicis disciplinis impensos Ricardi Dudley labores, preclarum genus—quippe qui baronis erat filius—honestos approbatosque mores, egregias denique suas virtutes; dignum existimavimus virum eundem et laude et honore afficiendum non modico. Completa igitur nostrarum sanctionum forma, laudabili consuetudine suo pro virili observata, primo ad bachalariatus, deinde ad magistratus in artibus gradum merito ereximus. Quo suscepto omnia, que ad eam dignitatem spectavere, tam probe tamque prudenter[2], ut, annis vix duobus transactis, in nostre reipublice procuratoris officium elegerimus, admiserimus. Nolentibus igitur quos nostra Universitas decoravit apud alios parvipendi, visum nobis fuerat ut hujus perdocti viri, cathedralis ecclesie beate Sarum: precentoris, aliisque in ecclesiis canonici, gradum et honorem nostris confirmaremus testimoniis. In cujus fidem has publicas litteras nostre Universitatis sigillo munitas fieri jussimus. *Datum in nostre congregationis domo, anno salutis Dominice millesimo quingentesimo octavo, Octobris vicesimo tercio.* 1508.

Fragment of a letter.

RYGȜTH honorabull Ser, we have us harte[3] . . . 1509.

Repositio carte magne in cista quatuor clavium.

Vicesimo die mensis Maii, anno regni regis Henrici Octavi primo, reposita est carta domini regis Henrici septimi in cista quatuor clavium.

[1] Two and a half blank folios occur between the previous epistle and this testimonial letter. [2] *complevit* or a similar word apparently omitted, MS. [3] Here the fragment, which is apparently the beginning of a letter ('We have us hartely commended,' &c.), ends abruptly, and with it the Register; the two notes which follow are separated from it by the space of half the folio, and are written in another hand quite on the lower margin of the page.

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THE END.

Vniuersis xpi christi fidelibus ad quos presentes litere peruenerint Vniuersitas operum
Cancellarius et cetus et vniuersitas magistri regentes in eadem salutem in omni
salutare Inter cetera quippe humanitatis officia nobis quibus et studia
presertim singulare quodam modo debitum et intimatum cum opus fuerit testimonium
perhibere Ob quod nos has litteras attestantes et dilecto nobis confratri Gundisalvo
Rosa de regno portugalie vir vita honesta fratri et ordinis minorum
pacem pius oppone cum vrbane ~~[illegible]~~ ad sacri theologie baccallaureatum
gradum apud nos pruetum et Ipsum de simonie ad clerum libere et sanam
intuitu scilicet statutorum nostrorum tenorem exemplent Vt igitur hunc testimonium
citius quia omni obseruatione consequatur fauore istas litteras dari vniuersitas cum
sigillo scrinii consignari Dat in mei cancellarii domo fidei Nonas Februarias
Anno domini M°CC°LX°

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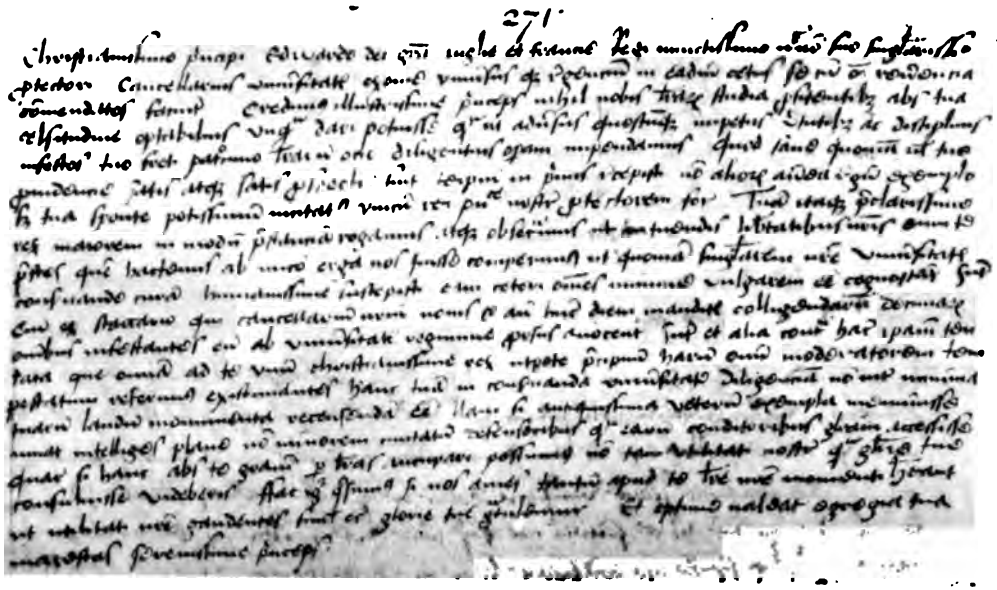

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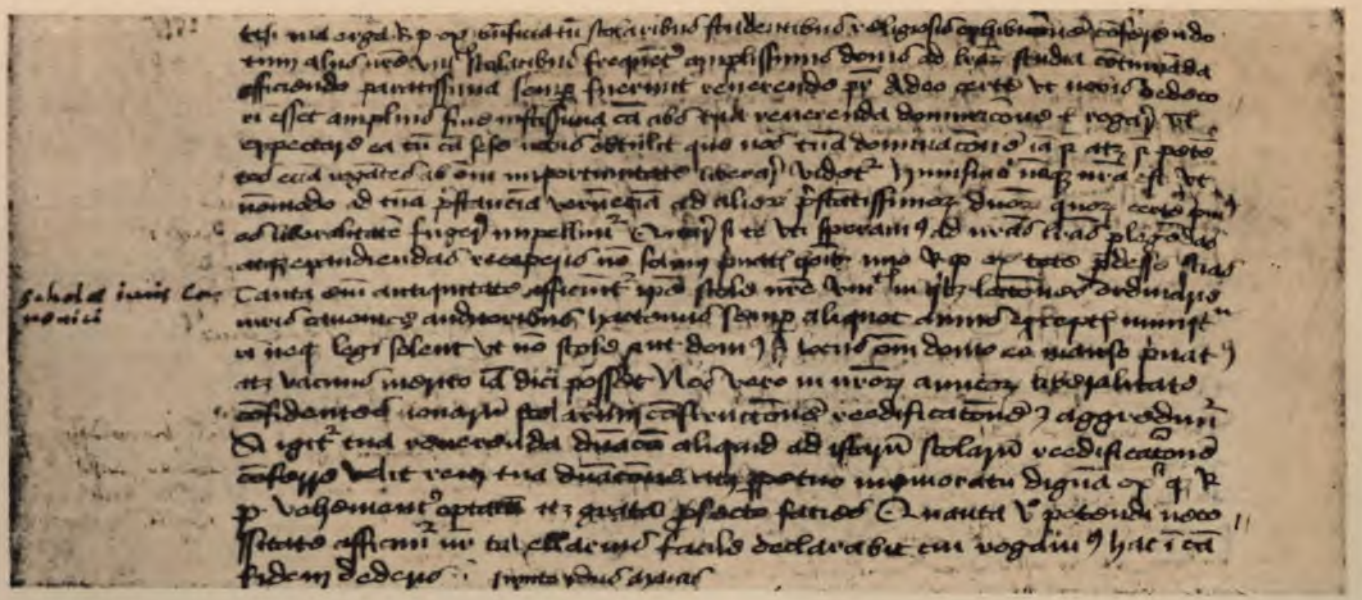

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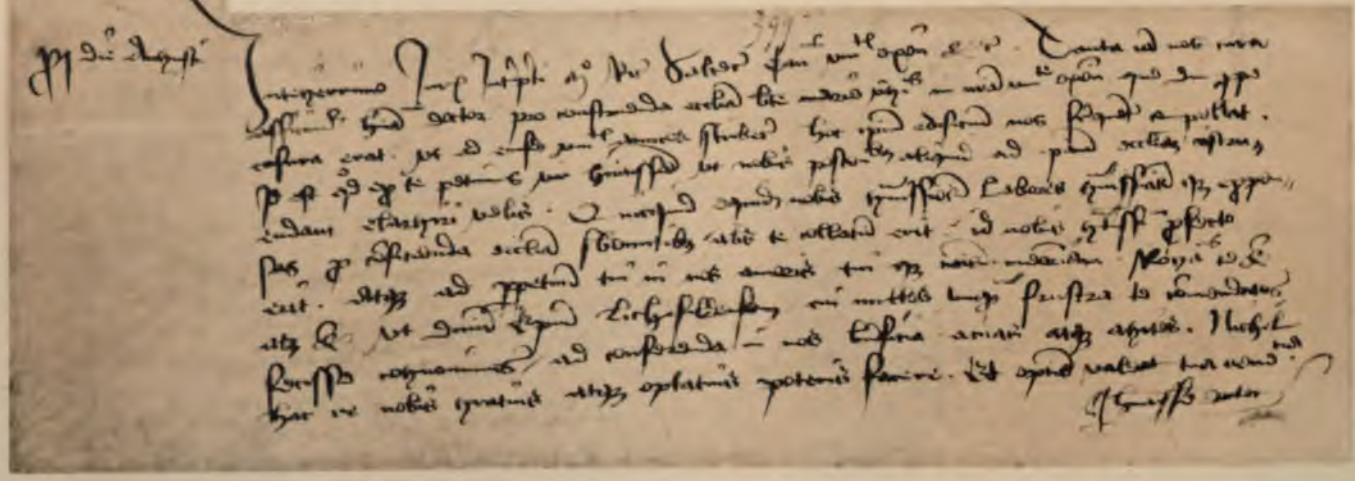

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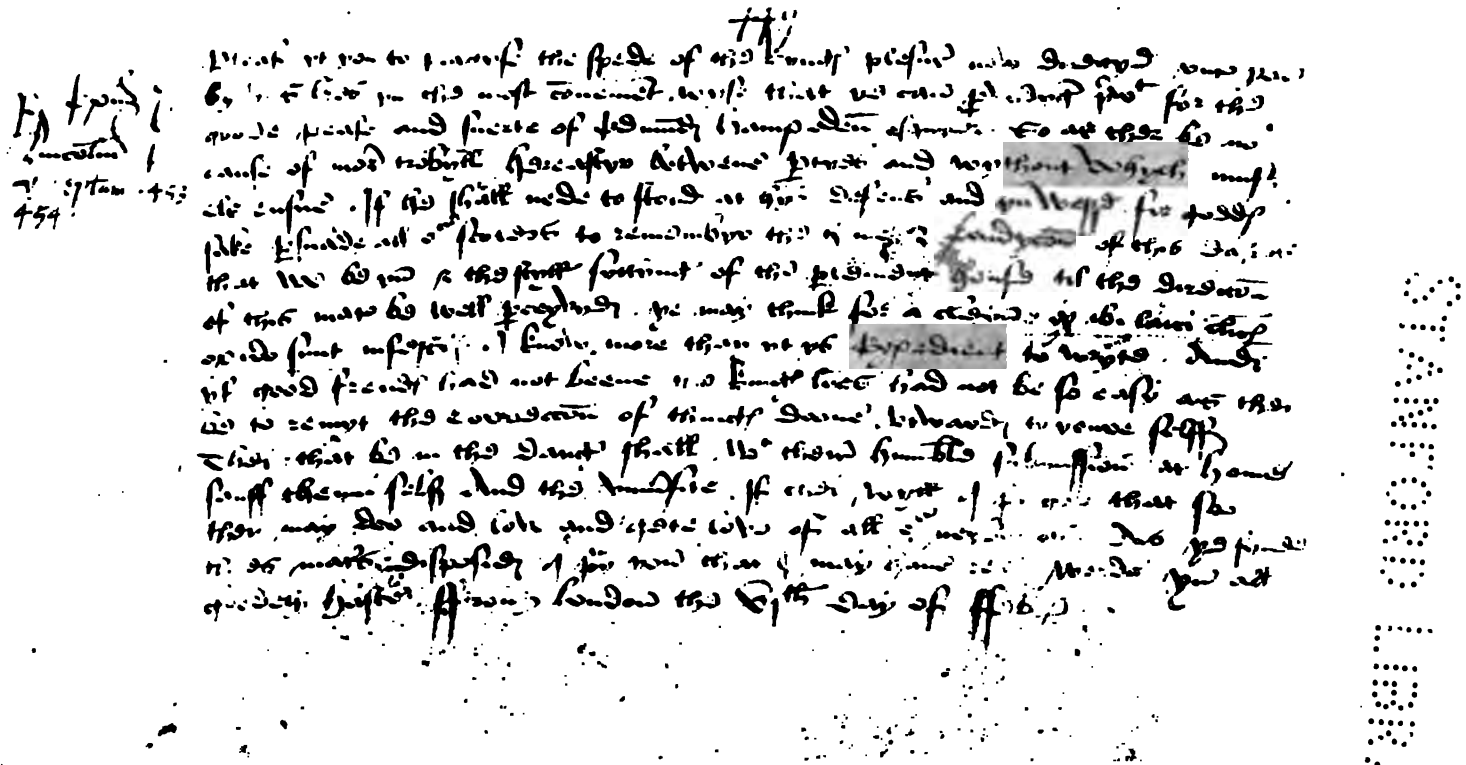

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By the prince 508

Right trusty and welbeloved we grete you well. And whereas not long passed
tyme passed by our lres to you addressed we instanced and desyred
you for the graunt and your good worthyes of the office and Rome of
gentilmen bedell of Dunmore with the hundrede thereto unto our trusty
welbeloved Sir John Standley and he now informed that in brene
tyme ye shall proceede to the electiond of some person to be thought
conenient for pe same. We desyre and hertily pray you effectous
that having ~~considering~~ consideracon to the effect of our other
lres to you directed in that behalfe it may like you to have our
said sir recomended unto the said Rome and office before any other
the suter for that it is the first thing we have desired of you for any
sir of ours. Wherein ye shall not only do unto us right singuler
plesir. Deserving our especial thanke. but also be provided of a sadde
and substantiall person to ocupie that Rome. As we verily trust you wold
Yeuen under our signet at the abbey of Enesham the xvi day of octobr.

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